

Hafa Adai!

Prisoner wants 45-year sentence reduced. **PAGE 3**  
Co-op job fair to be extended to Tinian and Rota. **PAGE 6**

# Saipan Tribune

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75¢

## CHCC owes Star Marianas \$96K for medical referral

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
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REPORTER

A Rota senator is playing referee between the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and Star Marianas Air on issues relating to interisland medical referrals and balances owed the airline.

According to Sen. Teresita Santos (R-Rota), CHCC owes Star Marianas Air about \$96,000.

Yet the senator is also urging Star Marianas to lift its rule that requires upfront cash

Santos was prompted to make the appeal to Star Marianas at the urging of CHCC

chief executive officer Esther Muña in a letter dated

**See CHCC on Page 4**



### DCCA canoe house vandalized

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
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REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' canoe house near Naked Fish in Susupe was vandalized over

the weekend, resulting in the loss of a model of the first canoe they were in the process of building.

The canoe was supposed to be used to educate Commonwealth children about

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' canoe house was vandalized over the weekend. Many of the materials needed to complete the hut-like structure were thrown into the ocean, along with the model of the department's first canoe.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

the importance of canoes and its ties to Micronesia's seafaring past.

Unfortunately, the miniature model of which it would

be based on was thrown into the ocean and has since been lost, while the DCCA's canoe house that is currently being

**See DCCA on Page 4**

### INSIDE



#### LOCAL

A five-person team from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is now in Puerto Rico.

**PAGE 9**



#### ASIA

North Korea is preparing for the 70th anniversary of the founding of its military.

**PAGE 20**



#### LIFE & STYLE

Elton John is retiring from the road after his upcoming three-year global tour.

**PAGE 23**



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# Local

## 2 in alleged sex abuse

Two men were arrested in the past two days for alleged sexual abuse of a minor in separate incidents on Saipan.

Jeffry Manarang Fernandez, 35, and Search Osilek Jr., 19, were both arrested with sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

At a bail hearing yesterday, the Superior Court imposed a \$25,000 cash bail each on Fernandez and Osilek.

Police met with social workers with the Division of Youth Services last Monday and learned that a 14-year-old

girl had reported that Fernandez allegedly touched her privates as she was sleeping in June 2016. Fernandez manages a hotel.

In Osilek's case, a police officer met with DYS social workers and learned that a 15-year-old girl reported that Osilek allegedly raped her during the 2017 Christmas break.

Osilek reportedly admitted in a police interview to having had nonconsensual sex with the girl. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## Korean students recognized for assistance

The Saipan Mayor's Office presented several Korean exchange students with certificates of appreciation after the group did a beach cleanup on Saipan.

The group of 51 exchange students from South Korea visited the Saipan Mayor's Office yesterday and were presented with the appreciation certifications.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said it is always appreciated when students from different countries come to the island and contribute to its beautification efforts.

He encouraged the students to come back again with their loved ones the next time so

they too can experience the island's beauty.

The students did their beach cleanups at the PauPau beach and at Sugar Dock.

The group of students was brought to the island by the Sasamo USA Corp. and was led by Grace Suhyunj Jo of the Sasamo USA Corp.

According to Jo, the students arrived on Saipan during the first week of January and will be leaving at the end of the month.

The students were able to visit the William S. Reyes Elementary School, Hopwood Middle School, and a number of other schools on the island. (*Kimberly A. Bautista*)

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## Prisoner wants 45-year sentence reduced

A prisoner serving a 45-year sentence for sexual crimes asked Superior Court yesterday to reduce his sentence.

There will be a status conference on March 14 on the request of Anthony P. Rios.

## CUC: Nothing to worry about 'milky water'

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. assured yesterday that there is no cause to worry about "milky water" coming out of the faucet in As Lito and Koblerville as this is only dissolved air that will dissipate.

CUC deputy executive director William Gilmore said the white cloudy element in the water is dissolved air that has been infused into the water from an open air source.

"There is no need for concern since the air will dissipate in a

few minutes," Gilmore said. Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho directed the Office of the Public Defender to evaluate the issue of whether it can still be appointed counsel for Rios considering that he has appealed to the CNMI Su-

preme Court.

In a handwritten letter, Rios also requested for an appointment of an attorney and filed a notice of petition for a writ of habeas corpus.

Rios did not indicate the

be eliminated.

He said CUC has been doing a significant amount of work in this area to both improve pressures and to extend the service period as supply levels improve. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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reasons in his motions.

According to court records, Rios pleaded guilty in 1997 to three counts of sexual abuse of a child, two counts of oral copulation, and one count of rape. He was sentenced to five years imprisonment.

After his release from prison in 2003, Rios reoffended and was sentenced to five years in prison.

He re-offended again in 2012 and was charged with two counts of sexual assault in the second degree, two counts of assault and battery, and two counts of disturbing the peace. Based upon

those charges, the government had his probation in both the 1997 and 2003 cases revoked.

Before revoking the probation, a trial judge presiding over the revocation hearing—different from the one who had presided over the 1997 and 2003 cases—denied Rios' request for a presentence in-

vestigation report.

In 2012, Camacho sentenced Rios to the maximum 45 years for the 1997 and 2003 cases. Rios appealed, but in 2015 the CNMI Supreme Court affirmed his conviction and the 45-year prison term that Camacho imposed on him. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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# Cleanup exposes trash problem

Photos taken by a concerned citizen at San Juan Beach, also known as Hidden Beach, have exposed accumulated piles of trash left by beachgoers in blatant violation of the CNMI's anti-littering law.

The photos, shared with the Marianas Visitors Authority, prompted the office to immediately assign the location for cleanup under its Beautify My

Marianas program.

"A friend of mine sent me the photos and, needless to say, I was shocked," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "Bottles, cans,

and other trash piled up in the parking area. Thankfully, the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance and Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality were able to address the prob-



Bottles, cans, and other trash are strewn on the parking lot of Hidden Beach on Jan. 2, 2018, during one of the highest visitor periods of the year.

lem immediately and clean the site. However, without aggressive enforcement, we expect the problem will continue."

Approximately 200 lbs of trash were collected in the cleanup. Concepcion added that the MVA is doing its part to educate tour guides about the anti-littering law and other regulations through its tour guide certification program, and additional outreach is done through paid programming on Flame Tree TV's tourist channels, but more is needed to reach independent travelers and residents.

Under Public Law 19-53 any person found to have committed littering shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$25 and not more than \$5,000. The law

states apprehending officers are from Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Dept. of Public Safety, Dept. of Public Health, Dept. of Lands and Natural Resources, Dept. of Public Lands, Dept. of Public Works, Commonwealth Zoning Office, and Office of the Mayor.

The Beautify My Marianas allows the community to support tourism while raising funds by being compensated by the MVA to clean 1-mile sections of beach, roadway, or other locations. Concepcion added that with proper enforcement of anti-littering laws, the program would turn its efforts toward tree-planting, painting of public areas, or other beautification projects. (MVA)

## KILILI

*From Page 1*

with allowing the program to expire.

In 2016, Murkowski, along with her Democrat counterpart in the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA), assigned the Government Accountability Office to report on the labor situation in the CNMI.

The May 2016 GAO report ultimately led to the U.S. Workforce Act, or H.R. 4869 for the U.S. House of Representatives and S. 2325 for the U.S. Senate.

"If we are going to have any chance at all of getting the [legislation] through the U.S. Senate and U.S. House and signed by President Donald J. Trump, we need to be united here at home. We need everyone to back this bill. We need your businesses and the organizations you belong to back this bill. We need the [CNMI] Legislature and the [CNMI] mayors and the municipal governments to back this bill," said Sablan.

Sablan and U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) simultaneously introduced the legislation in their respective chambers last Jan. 19, 2018. That means a CW bill is currently in the U.S. House; an exact, same bill is also in the U.S. Senate—both simultaneously going through both chambers.

"The bills had two components that were very important to us: the extension of the [CW] program and the [CW cap increase] to 13,000," said SHRM president Francisco S. Ada, adding that these provisions were the major concerns of the organization.

"Any reduction to that won't really do us any good," he added.

## VISITOR

*From Page 1*

by strong air service and demand from Korea and China," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion.

"For the past 21 months in a row, the CNMI has seen a consistent monthly increase in arrivals so we've finally been able to stabilize our

numbers at such a critical time in the industry.

"There is a very realistic scenario upon us that the CNMI CW visa program has the potential to cut off our industry lifeline to workers that sustain the industry.

"Industry performance in 2018 and, therefore, the economic health of our government, businesses, and families, hinges on finding a

resolution to this debacle. We are counting on the successful enactment of the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act now in Congress to address this critical issue. All the promotions in the world won't help if there aren't hotels, restaurants, and other services in the Marianas," Concepcion said.

The December dip is largely attributed to 1,929 visitors that arrived via a cruise ship in December 2016.

Arrivals from Korea dropped 7 percent to 29,092, although the country retained its position as the top performing source market.

Arrivals from China grew 6 percent compared to December 2016 to 18,781 visitors. Arrivals from Japan were 14 percent lower than December 2016 at 5,445 visitors. (MVA)

## CHCC

*From Page 1*

Dec. 19, 2017.

She said in her letter that losing a seat critical for the prompt treatment of referral patients from Rota resets the process of securing spending authorization and approval to avoid questionable discrepancies.

"Upon booking, CHCC must perform necessary procedures such as producing a travel authorization and having it approved. CHCC must also then prepare the payment for the travel through CHCC's financial system, obtain approvals, and then print the check," Muña wrote, reiterating the lengthy process.

In the same letter, Muña ul-

timately asked Santos to assist CHCC with the issue.

In response, Santos, in a letter to Star Marianas president Shaun Christian dated Jan. 17, 2018, informed him of CHCC's situation. Star Marianas representative Joe Cruz later met with the senator last Jan. 15, 2018.

According to Santos, Cruz informed her that CHCC owes Star Marianas

about \$96,000.

Upon learning this, Santos sent a letter dated Jan. 23, 2018, to both Christian and Muña to urge them to discuss the matter.

"Hopefully, these concerns would be addressed between [Star Marianas] and CHCC," said Santos.

Muña did not immediately respond to *Saipan Tribune's* request to comment

## DCCA

*From Page 1*

built was vandalized.

Traditionally, when building a canoe, a smaller model is built as a guideline for the actual canoe.

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter remains positive and said that another model of the over 40-foot canoe has already been constructed and is nearly done.

"Someone went and vandalized the area, although not

badly. They did not completely destroy anything but they did go and throw stuff into the water and one of them was the model that [we] were working on...But [the canoe makers have] started building a new [model] and it's almost completely done," he said.

According to Hunter, a number of the materials that were to be used to build the canoe house were also thrown into the water, but he is not too worried because the wood that was thrown into the water is usually soaked in saltwater before it can be used for the construction of a hut.

Hunter said security measures have already been taken, like installing lights by the hut and, once the canoe is built and stored in its canoe house, the department will further invest in security equipment like surveillance cameras.

"It's sad that people can go and do this," he said.

Hunter said that the department is still hopeful that the canoe will be built in time for the Festival of Arts that will be held in Hawaii. It is just about getting specific resources that are rare on Saipan.

"We have already sourced

all of the wood. Because it's breadfruit, it's hard to get, either from here or from Rota," he said. "We want to have it constructed in time for the 2020 Festival of Arts in Hawaii where we are either going to sail it there or take it there midway and sail it into the festival," he added.

According to Hunter, the process of building the canoe will start once the canoe house is completed and properly welcomed into the community through a traditional ceremony. Hunter said the canoe house is over 50 percent complete.

## PROPOSAL

*From Page 1*

■ CW workers will be entitled to pay that is higher than the CNMI minimum wage, the federal minimum, the prevailing wage in the Marianas for the job, or the actual wage paid to others in the same job.

■ Department of Homeland Security would be provided the authority to revoke a CW permit if it is not used or if the employer violates the terms

of employment.

■ CW workers may be allowed to move to other employers without having to count against the annual cap.

■ A new CW visa form, the CW-3, may be applied for employees who have been working as a CW-1 since 2014.

■ CW-3 visas will be renewed three years but holders will be required to exit the CNMI for at least 30 days in between renewals and within the 180-day renewal period.

## Mareham nomination for a CEC post backed

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
erwin\_encinaires@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The public hearing on the nomination of Patricia Mareham to the Commonwealth Election Commission as the Carolinian representative for Saipan drew testimonies that backed her nomination.

According to Commonwealth law, the CEC must have at least one Carolinian representative on the board. Last Nov. 9, 2017, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres nominated Mareham, who is the Women's Affairs Office Outreach coordinator, to the position.

The nomination, if confirmed, has a four-year term that ends on Aug. 8, 2021.

"I am confident that Ms. Mareham is qualified and will be an asset on this important commission," Torres said in his letter to Sen. Francisco Cruz (R-Tinian), chairman of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments.

Prior to being with the WAO, Mareham was employed with the Department of Youth Services Trainee-Leadership Economic for Self-Sufficiency from November 2014 to May 2015.

She started at WAO as a part-time caseworker from January 2015 to September 2015 before taking up the position full-time from Oct. 1, 2015, to Sept. 30, 2016, where she also filled the program administrator position from April 20, 2016, to Sept. 30, 2016, in an acting capacity.

From Oct. 1, 2016, to Sept. 30, 2017, Mareham was assigned as lead caseworker before being promoted to her present position as outreach coordinator starting Oct. 1, 2017.

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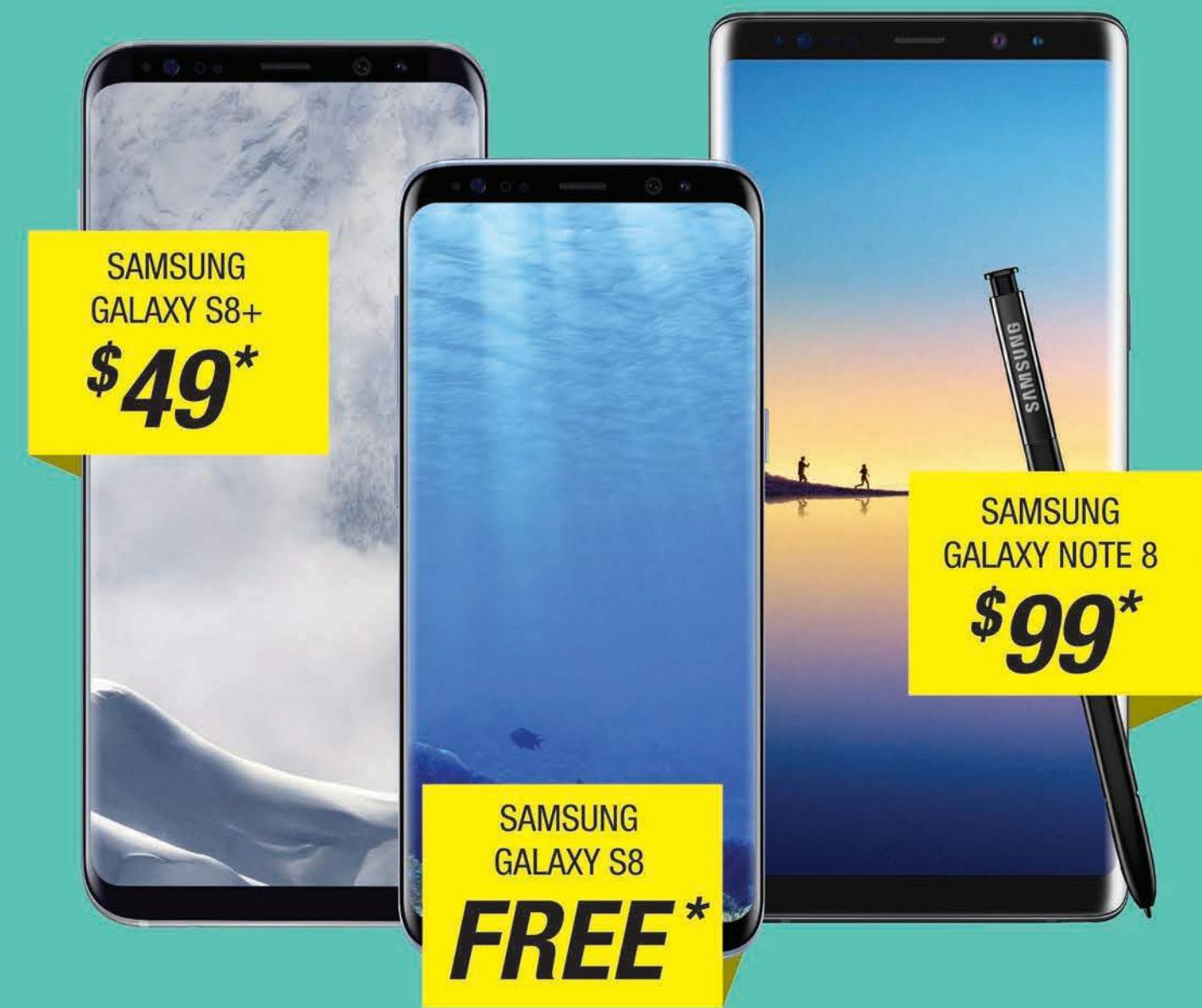
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# Co-op job fair to be extended to Tinian and Rota



Over 70 students attend the Cooperative Education program's job fair yesterday at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Cooperative Education & Training Program of the Public School System, which has been holding job fairs for high school students, aims to finally bring the job fair to Tinian and Rota in the upcoming school year.

Cooperative Education program coordinator Brandon Nicholas said the program has yet to host a job fair on the other islands.

"I can't recall in the history of the program if they had had job fairs there. ... At least under my tenure this would be my first time to bring it down... I am hoping to bring it there next school year," he said.

Nicholas said there is a co-op program on Rota and Tinian but no job fair. "We're doing our best to... bring the job fair to Rota and Tinian," he added.

Nicholas said the job fair allows students to experience the reality of seeking and securing jobs.

"I think the job fair is important because it exposes our children to the world of work. For many of our students, this is their first time at a job fair, giving them that true-life experience of what they would encounter when they complete their studies if they choose to go to college. Even after high school, if they choose to work, we're getting our students a step forward," he said.

The fair simulates a real-life job fair for the students where they would need to act and

look professional while they meet with possible employers.

"It's a real-life program. They [students] will meet real-life people, real human resources staff, and they will have to present themselves so they can submit an application and possibly get hired," he said. "Expect it to be a life-changing experience but something that they will hopefully enjoy as well," he added.

The way the job fair works is that students trying to secure a job for the semester and are hired would be working at these job sites for the duration of the semester, or from January through May.

"None of these positions are guaranteed and these students will be treated like any other applicant and they will need to apply and go through interviews to secure these jobs," said Nicholas.

He said the job fair took about two to three weeks to prepare and about 70 to 80 students were present.

Cooperative Education instructor Jeaniffer Cubangbang said that, through the job fair, students are given the opportunity to learn what most people don't learn until their late 20s.

"They're learning the things I didn't know until my late 20s and these are 15-, 16-, 17-year-olds who are learning them now," she added.

Cubangbang also said the job fair supplies the local economy with more workers.

"It is also helping to build sustainability and build capacity within the CNMI," she said.

## Bordallo on Guam court ruling in H-2B case

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) issued the following statement in response to the U.S. District Court of Guam's recent decision, which agreed in part with Guam employers' challenge to the federal government's misapplication of the H-2B visa program on Guam:

"I applaud the U.S. District Court's decision finding that local employers have been adversely impacted by the near 100 percent denial of H-2B visas [in] Guam. Despite efforts to train and hire local workers, Guam simply does not have a sufficient workforce available to meet existing labor demands. I continue to support Guam's employers and local businesses as they seek resolution through the courts, and I hope this decision prompts the federal government to reverse its near-unanimous

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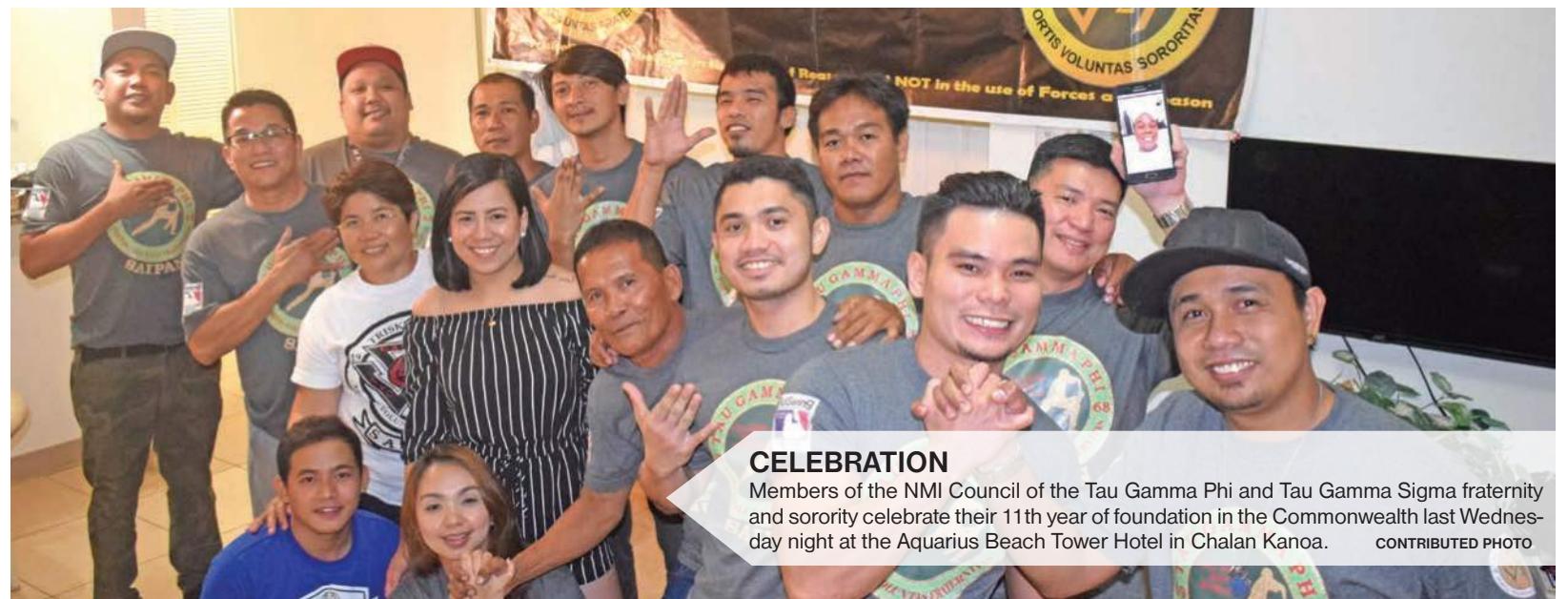
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### CELEBRATION

Members of the NMI Council of the Tau Gamma Phi and Tau Gamma Sigma fraternity and sorority celebrate their 11th year of foundation in the Commonwealth last Wednesday night at the Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel in Chalan Kanoa.

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## HK Airlines and Taiwan travel reps tour Saipan

To entice more Taiwanese visitors to the Marianas, the Marianas Visitors Authority hosted a familiarization tour on Jan. 8-11, 2018, for Hong Kong Airlines and representatives of the Taiwan travel trade industry.

The 13-member tour group, led by PR & Marketing manager Steven Cheng of the MVA's Taiwan office, inspected eight hotels during their brief visit, including Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kanoa Resort, Saipan Beach Hotel, Surfrider Resort Hotel, Aqua Resort Club, Kensington Hotel, and Grandvrio Resort, where they lodged during their visit.

The group also took a UTV tour to Mt. Tapochao, inspected and had a welcome dinner at Imperial Pacific Resort, and had a SeaTouch marine animal encounter.

They dined at Hyatt's Kili Café, Surf Club Saipan, Salty's Bar & Grill, and aboard the *Jade Lady* sunset dinner cruise.

The agents also visited Mariana Lounge before their departure to Taiwan.

"The agents had a wonderful snorkeling experience in the crystal-clear ocean at Managaha, along with other activities," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "The members in the group were reportedly all very happy about the trip. They expressed that they thought the activities are safe and fun, the people here are friendly and helpful, the weather is nice and comfortable, and the sites are clean and beautiful."

Participants represented Hong Kong Airlines, EZ Travel, Lion Travel, Cola Tour, South East Travel, Expedia, Star Travel, *Travel Rich* magazine, Xin Media Report, *Travel New Age*, and more. (MVA)

# CUC crew helps restore power in Puerto Rico



Kevin Hidalgo works to fix a power line in a home in Puerto Rico.  
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A five-person team from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. arrived in Puerto Rico on Jan. 17, 2018, to support the work of power restoration after Hurricane Maria devastated the island in September 2017.

Joseph Crisostomo, Frederico Lizama, Raymond Quitano, Joseph Lizama, and Kevin Hidalgo traveled to help their fellow Americans in need.

They will help the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority—a government-run utility like CUC—restore power for people in the Carolina region of Puerto Rico.

Two utility trucks were rented from Colorado and shipped in a barge with other public power vehicles to Puerto Rico to allow the CUC crews to do



Joseph Lizama fixes power lines in Puerto Rico.  
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

their work on the island.

"This is a great mission of service and we are proud to participate. We have to help Puerto Rico, our sister commonwealth," said Gary Camacho, the executive director of CUC. "When we were hit by disaster in the Northern Marianas in 2015, we had public power utilities from across the U.S. and the

Pacific come out to support our restoration efforts. It is now time for us to give back."

CUC and PREPA are members of the American Public Power Association and its mutual aid network, which connects utilities in need of help after a disaster with similar utilities across the U.S. that can send crews, materials, and equipment to

aid in the restoration.

APPA and several of its members are supporting PREPA, along with the rest of the electric industry and the federal government. In January alone, 1,500 mainland industry crews are scheduled to arrive in Puerto Rico and work across seven regions in Puerto Rico, under the oversight of industry-led incident management teams.

The intensive restoration effort in Puerto Rico is unprecedented in magnitude and complexity. Much of the electric grid was destroyed and there are many hard-to-access regions. About 37

percent of customers still do not have power.

"Every bit of help matters. We are so very grateful to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for traveling all the way to Puerto Rico to help. They represent the true public power spirit of giving back," said Sue Kelly, president and CEO of the American Public Power Association.

The CUC team is expected to remain in Puerto Rico for 60 days.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. (PR)



Raymond Quitano helps restore power lines in Puerto Rico.  
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

Breakfast Buffet \$19  
Sunday Brunch  
Reg.: \$29 (Local: \$25)  
Seafood & Sushi Night  
Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)

Breakfast Buffet \$19

Breakfast Buffet \$19  
Buffet Lunch  
Reg.: \$20 (Local: \$17)  
Seafood & Sushi Night  
Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)

Breakfast Buffet \$19

Breakfast Buffet \$19

Breakfast Buffet \$19  
Buffet Lunch  
Reg.: \$20 (Local: \$17)  
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Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)

Breakfast Buffet \$19

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(10th floor of Crystal Tower in Grandviro Resort Saipan)  
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Opening time:  
Everyday Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm  
Last Order: 1:30pm  
Dinner 5:30pm-9:00pm  
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Dinner Buffet Location:  
Poolside Price: Reg. AD \$39 CH: \$19  
(Local: AD \$35/ CH \$17)

Business Hours: 6pm-9pm

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# MHS to represent CNMI at nat'l RWDC competition

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A team from Marianas High School will be representing the entire Pacific region at the upcoming Real World Design Challenge.

The CNMI Aeronautics was named the overall Pacific region champion for the RWDC competition after going head-to-head versus Guam and American-Samoa and coming out on top last Jan. 22, 2018.

As the Pacific state champions, they will compete with champions from each state and the international champi-

ons of China and Asia.

The team is made up of project director Chenoa Bunts-Anderson, Ian Cataluna, Mimi Sakano, Daniel Villarmero, Eun Jun Wang, and Gaeun Melody Yang.

According to Bunts-Anderson, she and her team spent about six months preparing for the regionals.

"By the time I reached high school, I knew that within STEM [science, technology, engineering, and math] lay all the subjects of my devotion and RWDC was the ideal program to get involved in," Bunts-Anderson said.

Bunts-Anderson and Vil-

larmero are both seniors, with 2018 marking their last year with RWDC.

Villarmero said: "The Real World Design Challenge helped me and many others figure out what STEM-related field we want to work in and gives us a chance to work toward that goal."

Cataluna, a junior, said that "RWDC is the first major competition in which I have been allowed to compete on a national basis."

As a new member, Wang was able to learn about aeronautics and STEM, saying that "interest in STEM will gradually grow in our school" with

RWDC and other programs.

The team is coached by Jeaniffer H. Cubangbang.

The RWDC is a competition where students are given real-life problems and the students solve them through the use of STEM. This year, the problem given was that in the next few years, starvation would be a possibility due to the growing population. The CNMI Aeronautics worked on the problem by creating an agricultural drone that could more efficiently detect pests in crops and eliminate the pests through spraying. The students went through a process

of brainstorming, seeking out mentors, designing, and building the drone.

According to Public School Systems interim commissioner Glenn Muña, he is confident that the CNMI Aeronautics will make the CNMI proud as well when they compete at the national RWDC competition on April 21 in Washington, D.C.

This is the third time MHS will be representing the Pacific region at the RWDC nationals.

The state RWDC competition is coordinated by the CNMI Public School System, whose state coordinator is Bobby Cruz.

Individuals who have aided in the 2008 team's successful win include Manoj Rahemtura, Rob Combs, Myla Beltran, Dr. Timothy Kock, Carly Garrison, David Billingsley, Rene Buendia, Jeff Duvan, Emory Frink, Cpt. Christina Hart Mastracchio, Roberto Malate, Claus Bier, Douglas A. Brennan, Admiral Shoshana Chatfield, Ashley Beck,

Jeremiah Rother, Robert Matate, John McElligott, Clariza Magat, Marianas Aviation, and NMC-CREES

MHS students have consistently won the state RWDC since their first participation in 2012.

In 2013 and 2015, they won first place at the national RWDC. They have also won national merit awards in 2012 and 2016, as well as additional national recognition in the last two years.

"We'd like to thank the parents who have tirelessly supported the students, the CNMI PSS Board of Education who have provided shirts and computers, Central Office for keeping the competition ongoing and resources available, and Marianas High School for their support in resources, especially students that tried out," said Cubangbang in a press statement.

Those that have supported the 2017 national competition include Saipan Computer Services, C Pacific Corp. Five Star Builders, and Dr. Bunts-Anderson.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### **Yap citizens invited to register for elections**

This is to invite all Yapese citizens to go down to Carolinian Utt on Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018, from 2pm to 5pm to register for special election next month and general election in November 2018. For more information, contact Edward Gechig at 788-8026 or Tony Yarobwemal at 288-4678. (PR)

### **CK diocese launches 5K walkathon**

The Diocese of Chalan Kanoa is launching its new health ministry with a 5K walkathon on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2018. This walkathon is envisioned to be an annual affair to kick off all physical activities lined up by its health and wellness program committee, including sports fest for the youth as well as various other activities. Free registration will begin at 6am at Kristo Rai parish parking lot and go time will be at 7am. For more information about this walkathon or how to volunteer, call 234-3000. (PR)

### **Road closure on Beach Road**

There will be construction and road closures on the northbound lane of Beach Road in between Llat Street and Alas Street in Garapan beginning

Jan. 29, 2018, through March 25, 2018. The road is expected to re-open on March 25, 2018. This will allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s contractor, RNV Construction, to perform renovations on a sewer lift station, S-10. Due to the closure of the northbound lane and for the safety of the community, motorists and

large vehicles are advised to proceed with caution and take alternative routes when traveling through the area. (PR)

### **Kagman Community Church activities**

Kagman Community Church will host a free breakfast for the community this Saturday, Jan. 27, at 9am. They will also be having a spaghetti potluck this Sunday at 5pm with a Bible study to follow. Call Zack at

### **Scheduled power outage on Jan. 27**

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2018, from 1:30pm to 4:30pm, to allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to perform line clearing near the primary lines along Haiguas Ln. Chalan Piao. Areas to be affected include Kiya 2 (3" partial), affecting Chalan Piao (Haiguas Ln., Niyok Dr., Ramona Ln., and Teodoro Dr.). No water well or wastewater lift station will be affected by this outage. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center at 664-4282 or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. (PR)

### **Military training at Warning Area 517, FDM**

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will also conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla today and tomorrow, Jan. 26 and 28, from 10am to 11:59pm. It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. (PR)

**JP GLOW RUN**  
IN MEMORY OF JOHN "JP" PANGELINAN • 10TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2018   GARAPAN FISHING BASE  
REGISTRATION 5:00 P.M.   START 6:00 P.M.

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**IN MEMORY OF JOHN "JP" PANGELINAN, THE FORMER PUBLISHER OF THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE. JP LEFT US TEN YEARS AGO BUT HIS MEMORY WILL REMAIN INDELIBLE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN LUCKY ENOUGH TO KNOW HIM. WHETHER AS A COLLEAGUE, A FRIEND, AN UNCLE, OR DAD, JP WAS THE QUINTESSENTIAL GENTLEMAN, FULL OF COMPASSION, GOOD CHEER, AND ALWAYS SMILING. JP WAS BORN ON SAIPAN ON OCTOBER 26, 1937. HE DIED ON FEBRUARY 5, 2008 AFTER A LONG BATTLE WITH CANCER.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL [CORPORATE\\_AFFAIRS@TANHOLDINGS.COM](mailto:CORPORATE_AFFAIRS@TANHOLDINGS.COM)  
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## Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweeue, House of Justice  
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950  
Telephone (670) 236-9800 Facsimile (670) 236-9702  
Website: www.justice.gov.mp



### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Announcement No. 18-15

**POSITION TITLE:**  
Department:  
Annual Salary:  
Location:  
Opening Date: 1/22/2018

**Deputy Marshal I**  
Marshal Services Division  
\$20,000  
Saipan  
Closing Date: Until Filled

#### Announcement No. 18-16

**POSITION TITLE:**  
Department:  
Annual Salary:  
Location:  
Opening Date: 1/22/2018

**Deputy Marshal I (Drug Court)**  
Marshal Services Division  
\$20,000  
Saipan  
Closing Date: Until Filled

#### Announcement No. 18-17

**POSITION TITLE:**  
Department:  
Annual Salary Range:  
Location:  
Opening Date: 1/22/2018

**Probation Officer I**  
Office of Adult Probation  
\$21,000 - \$24,563.73  
Saipan  
Closing Date: Until Filled

#### Announcement No. 18-18

**POSITION TITLE:**  
Department:  
Annual Salary Range:  
Location:  
Opening Date: 1/22/2018

**Probation Officer I**  
Office of Adult Probation  
\$21,000 - \$24,563.73  
Saipan  
Closing Date: Until Filled

#### Announcement No. 18-19

**POSITION TITLE:**  
Department:  
Annual Salary:  
Location:  
Opening Date: 1/22/2018

**Assistant Probation Officer**  
Officer of Adult Probation  
\$20,208.64  
Saipan  
Closing Date: Until Filled

**INTERESTED PERSONS** may obtain application forms at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweeue/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources  
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweeue/House of Justice  
P.O. Box 502165 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. (670) 236-9818 • Fax. (670) 236-9702  
[michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp](mailto:michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp)

This job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>

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## Bridge Capital re-affirms sponsorship of trash bin



Tucker Baldwin, Bridge Capital chief operations officer, and Tania Mesa, administrative and human resources manager, present a check donation to Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance board members Dave Guerrero, Somia Quan, and Fran Castro, together with MINA executive director Roberta Guerrero.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bridge Capital, LLC recently renewed its sponsorship of a garbage bin located on Mt. Tapochao under the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance's Adopt-A-Bin program.

Bridge Capital's sponsorship of the recycling bin is for the third consecutive year. Presenting the check on behalf of Bridge Capital were Tucker Baldwin, chief operations officer, and Tania Mesa, administrative and human resources manager.

Mesa also coordinates the bi-annual cleanup on Mt. Tapochao as part of their bin sponsorship commitment. On hand for the presentation of this year's sponsorship were MINA board members Dave Guerrero, Somia Quan, and Fran Castro, together with MINA executive director Roberta Guerrero.

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Mesa also coordinates the

bi-annual cleanup on Mt. Tapochao as part of their bin sponsorship commitment.

On hand for the presentation of this year's sponsorship were MINA board members Dave Guerrero, Somia Quan, and Fran Castro, together with MINA executive director Roberta Guerrero.

The Adopt-a-Bin program strives to prevent harm to living marine resources by reducing the amount of land-based sources of marine debris. Sponsors' participation in the program enables implementation of this valuable service to the island community, promotes an island culture of recycling, and removes thousands of mixed waste and recyclable items along coastal areas.

For more information about MINA's Adopt-a-Bin Program and other environmental projects, visit MINA's Facebook page or by calling 233-REEF (7333) or email [minaoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:minaoutreach@gmail.com). (PR)

## USS O'Kane crewmembers take part in beach cleanup



Five sailors from the guided-missile destroyer, USS O'Kane assisted Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance's Tasi-Watch rangers and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce with a cleanup at Garapan Fishing Base on Wednesday morning.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Five sailors from the guided-missile destroyer, USS O'Kane, visiting Saipan for much-needed rest and recreation for the officers and crew, gave of their time on Wednesday morning and assisted Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance's Tasi-Watch rangers and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce with a cleanup at Garapan Fishing Base on Wednesday morning and assisted Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance's Tasi-Watch rangers and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce with a cleanup at Garapan Fishing Base on Wednesday morning.

Commerce with a cleanup at Garapan Fishing Base.

The rangers reported 180 lbs of trash collected at the site, and extend their deepest appreciation to these gentlemen and their efforts to improve Saipan's environment.

For more information

about MINA's programs and how to get involved, visit MINA's Facebook page or contact 233-REEF or [minaoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:minaoutreach@gmail.com). The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is located on the third floor of the Marianas Business Plaza and may be reached at 234-7150. (PR)

## Castro up for retention this November

CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alejandro Cruz Castro is up for retention election at the Nov. 6, 2018, general election.

Castro was nominated to serve as chief justice in September 2012. His eight-year term expires in 2020.

Under the CNMI Constitution, the question whether

justices or judges will be retained shall be put to a vote at a general election immediately before the end of that justice's or judge's term of office.

Castro, 65, has yet to announce if he is interested in submitting to the retention election.

He ascended to the CNMI Supreme Court bench in July

1998. In 2005, voters retained him to the high tribunal's bench.

As the first indigenous attorney general, Castro was instrumental in setting up the annual AG's Cup speech competition.

Castro became an associate judge in Superior Court in 1989 and became presiding judge in 1993. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 18-007

Opening Date: Thursday, January 25, 2018  
Closing Date: Until Filled

#### Public Information Officer (Re-announcement)

**Duties:** Under the direct supervision of the Executive Director or designee. Serves as a liaison between CUC, the media and the public; plans, coordinates and disseminates public information utilizing various form of communication in an effort to educate and promote the organization's projects and activities. Prepares copy of news releases; content for the CUC website; articles; newsletters; reports and creates various collateral materials. Develops and coordinates public outreach programs; researches and identifies outreach needs and recommends communication methods for the provision of information. Receives and responds to inquiries from the public, internal departments, and other agencies as well as coordinating with CUC Call center; may serve as representative at public meetings to address questions or issues, and to provide community updates. Designs and implements public information campaigns, events and programs; determines campaign or program goals and expected outcomes; plans, coordinates and prepares materials and activities to meet goals and objectives. Researches, gathers and maintains information and communication materials and archives. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

**LOCATION:** Administration Office, SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands, USA  
**SALARY:** Starting at \$42,411.00 per annum (Commensurate with Qualifications and Experience, Exempt)  
**POSITION:** One (1)  
**CONTRACT:** Two (2) years, subject to renewal

**Minimum Requirements:** Bachelor's Degree in Journalism, Public Administration or related field and 4 years or related public information experience. Proficiency in multiple languages (such as legally recognized language in the CNMI: English, Chamorro and Carolinian) is a plus. **Knowledge of:** Applicable Federal, Commonwealth, State and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Public relations principles and techniques; Communication methods; Media relations principles, Customer relations principles; Modern Office Technology. **Skills in:** Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; serving as a public information liaison and representative to the community; Planning, coordinating and disseminating public information; Determining information needs and promoting and educating the public; Preparing news releases, communications content, articles and collateral materials; Listening and responding to inquiries and effectively conveying information; Utilizing critical thinking and social perception to identify issues; Researching and preparing recommendations and responses; Designing and implementing programs and events; Measuring effectiveness of program delivery for future enhancements; Gathering and maintaining communication materials and information; utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

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## DPW: Tinian highways to see improvements

Tinian residents will soon see improvement on Routes 21, 24, and 27.

The Technical Services Division of the Department of Public Works will be improving the traffic signs and striping the road in these areas, including a roundabout on one of the intersection.

This project covers just over nine miles of road.

Through Federal Highway Administration funding, the improvements will total \$446,860.

"With the progression on our islandwide projects and Federal Highway Administration commendation, we hope to continue providing safer roads for the public," said DPW Secretary James A. Ada.

The improvement will include the installation of 1,900 linear feet guard rails along Route 27 or Park Avenue, said

highway administrator Loraine M. Seman.

"We are currently waiting for the approval of the Federal Highway Administration for this addition. The completion date is tentative but our team is committed to providing efficient and reliable services by maintaining and improving public safety on roadways," Seman said.

Highway engineer Henry Bautista said the new improvements are at Route 21 (Broadway Boulevard), Route 24 (42nd Street), and Route 27 (Park Avenue), beginning from Grand Street to Suicide Cliff.

According to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, these improvements follow ongoing plans to enhance infrastructure across the Commonwealth.

"The current CNMI Territorial Highway System includes

over 120 miles of road covering Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. I am pleased that DPW is working very diligently in improving the safety of our highways and meeting federal standards.

I want to reiterate that federal highway funding continues to be instrumental in improving our islands' infrastructure and I commend DPW's team of engineers and program administrators for securing and fulfilling these projects," Torres said.

DPW's Technical Services Division administers all mandated legislative budget appropriations, federally funded highway projects through Federal Highway Administration and other federal grant funding through using agencies and Federal Emergency Management Agency projects in conjunction with natural disasters in coordination with CIP Program Office. (PR)



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Interested individuals who meet the above requirements should submit their resume no later than Tuesday, January 30, 2018. Resumes may be submitted to the attention of IP&E Human Resources Department via:

Office: Corner Puetto St. and Industrial Drive Commercial Port Saipan, MP 96950  
 Email: [HumanResourceTeam@ipehq.com](mailto:HumanResourceTeam@ipehq.com)  
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For more information please contact 235-6527/28 ask for Jeremy

# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 18

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### EDITORIAL

## Drill, baby, drill is a step backward for U.S. energy policy

**N**ot keen on the idea of windmills off Long Island? How about oil rigs? That's the pitch from the Trump administration, which in its pursuit of energy independence and greater energy exports is resorting to a strategy of drill, baby, drill. Oil, natural gas and coal are in. Solar and wind—despite rapid growth, declining cost, job-producing capability and increasing favor with Americans—are afterthoughts, at best. Prioritizing fossil fuels in an era of climate change is shortsighted. Doing that while erasing safety regulations and not following strict rules on process, as President Donald Trump is doing, is just plain wrongheaded.

Case in point: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke plans to lease for oil and natural gas drilling nearly all federal offshore waters. The proposal seeks to open more than 90 percent of the country's outer continental shelf—from Alaska to the California coast, more parts of the Gulf of Mexico, and the entire Eastern Seaboard, including off Long Island.

At the same time, the Interior Department has repealed regulations to make offshore drilling safer adopted after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, the worst oil spill in U.S. history. That's unconscionable. To further dirty the waters, the Interior Department suspended a study intended to lead to safer drilling platforms. More drilling, fewer safety guidelines, what could go wrong?

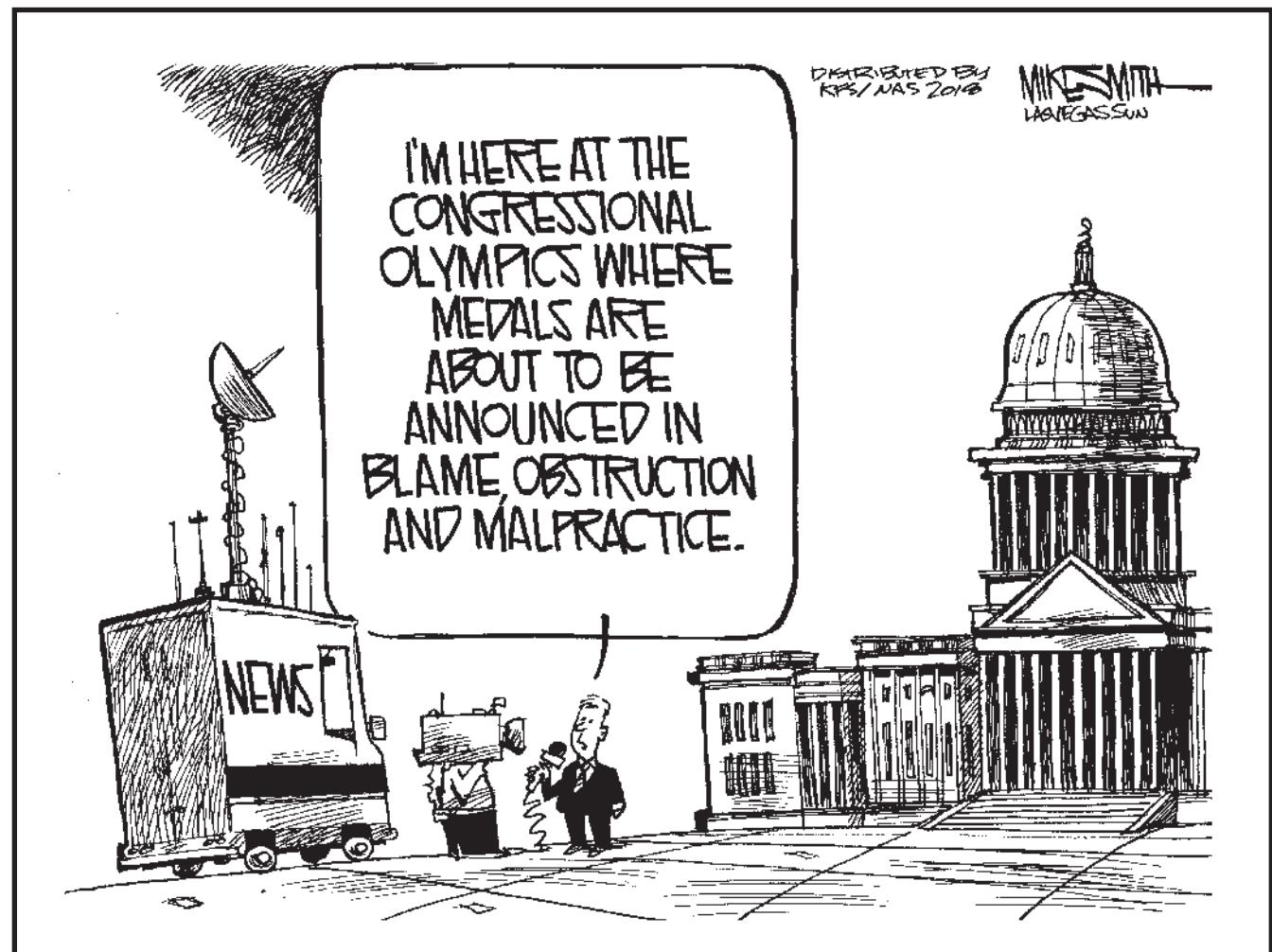
Republican and Democratic governors of states affected by the plan criticized it—Long Island leaders will join in on Friday—and asked to be exempted. Zinke cited the importance of tourism in removing Florida, but the same is true of most states that protested, including New York. The real reason was craven politics: Zinke wanted to help Florida's term-limited GOP Gov. Rick Scott, a Trump ally whom the president wants to run against incumbent Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson. But Scott has long supported offshore drilling. Underscoring the cynicism, Zinke cannot remove sites on his own. That requires a yearslong process of public comments and analysis of criteria, like risk to the environment.

The larger question involves whether this approach is the best to attain energy independence, itself a worthy goal. Oil is cheap now thanks to domestic fracking, which leaves some oil company executives skeptical about riskier and more expensive drilling offshore and in remote places like Alaska, where there was a very weak response to a recent auction of 80,000 acres. Trump also keeps trying to prop up coal, but the industry is declining and even members of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission appointed by Trump rejected his plan.

Instead of incentivizing the growing solar and wind industries and seeking a balance of energy sources, Trump this week levied tariffs on cheaper Chinese solar panels. Without also incentivizing domestic solar manufacturers, that not only threatens to make installations more expensive, it also will lead to the loss of an estimated 23,000 U.S. jobs.

The courts most likely will have the final say in the offshore leasing plan. But it's a bad idea on its merits. With wind and solar as viable alternatives, why risk the specter of oil on our beaches, in our waters and killing our fish and birds?

(c)2018 Newsday



## Going viral

**F**rom all accounts this year's flu is a nasty piece of work. I know some strong people who have been knocked down by this bug. Worry is spreading. Guys who haven't seen a medic since "Muskrat Love" hit the charts have been getting flu shots.

Even Sparky is concerned. And let me tell you, Sparky doesn't usually worry about anything.

So when I heard he actually cut back to smoking just one pack a day on account of this flu threat, I knew that we had a serious situation on our hands.

You've heard of a canary in a coal mine? He's a grizzly in a coal mine.

I therefore decided to lay out a defensive perimeter against this flu. I used Lysol as a disinfecting agent and I wore a magic coat.

The coat, a white lab coat, is a piece of Saipan's tourism history. I bought it for \$2.25 from an Army surplus store. I put the coat on a helicopter mechanic so he could pose by a workbench looking like a clean and slick technician.

That photo became part of a marketing brochure. It went to agents in Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. After that, when I was schmoozing important visitors and giving them a tour of our helicopter facilities, I'd arrange, in advance, for the mechanic to be wearing the lab coat. This showcased our true professionalism. My coworkers and I dubbed the garment the magic coat.

So that's the story with the coat.

Anyway, back on the flu front, somebody pointed out that hosing down everything with Lysol is an ineffective way to combat the flu. That's because the flu virus, it's said, does not survive long outside the body, so the Lysol (which combats viruses and bacteria) is fighting on a moot front.

Hey, this gives us something to think about.

And, to me, at least, it illustrates the difference between a fact and a risk structure. You can be right about one thing (a fact), but it can lead you to be wrong about the overall picture (the ultimate outcome).

That's largely because it's the second-order consequences, not the first-order consequences, that can lead us to doom.

For example, one common risk is that getting the flu can open the door to opportunistic infections by bacteria. In such a case, we've now gone from a first-order gig, the viral infection, to a second-order gig, namely the viral infection along with a bacterial infection. Want to go further? OK, let's say that the bacterial problem lands us in the hospital. Now we're facing a third-order array of consequences particular to the hospital environment. With this hypothetical situation in mind, let's consider that, in theory, the "ineffective" application of Lysol might have prevented this outcome if it staved off the offending bacteria, while

**By ED STEPHENS JR.**  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at [EdStephensJr.com](http://EdStephensJr.com). His column runs every Friday.



heeding the "fact" would not have prevented it at all.

Actually, as for Lysol, or no Lysol, or doing one thing, or avoiding another thing, well, I don't have any answers here. My point is merely to show a thought process pertaining to a generic structure of risk. This structure is why bad luck often begets more bad luck.

It's not that things merely snowball. It's that they keep jumping to ever-steep hills.

That's why dealing with risk, if done competently, often means employing tools to prevent these jumps. We see various names for these tools, depending on the context. Some examples are: firewalls, sandboxes, insurance, and hedges.

Meanwhile, some risks are so bizarre that you just have to laugh.

For example, I once had to observe a lobby so it could be redesigned. I observed its activity in various one-hour segments over the course of a few weeks. My attention was drawn to the snack bar. It had a coffee machine and got a lot of traffic. The machine was high-tech. It was shiny. People liked to push the buttons and mess with it. Likewise, the adjacent basket of coffee pods saw a lot of roaming hands.

Well, one regular player on that stage was a dude who spent half his time with his fingers in his mouth and the other half fondling the coffee machine. After the office staff did their occasional wipe-down of the machine, the dude, apparently owing to some supernatural telepathy, would instantly materialize. And then, via his absent-minded fidgeting, he'd give the machine and pods a fresh coating of saliva. It was uncanny.

There wasn't a flu outbreak at that particular time. Still, that spectacle strikes me as instructive in a lot of ways.

Well, that's all I have to say about this flu stuff, at least for now. We'll know that the threat has passed when Sparky gets back to his usual two packs per day. That day can't come soon enough. For now, on his reduced rations, he's sort of cranky.

Yes, tough times, these. It's good to have an appreciation of risk so we can use a scientific outlook. It's even better to have a magic coat.

## Dem's standard-bearer

The NMI Democratic Party has selected former Senate president Joseph S. Inos as its gubernatorial standard bearer. Inos runs against incumbent Gov. Ralph Torres.

The Inos selection triggered apoplexy and disorientation among GOP pundits. GOP water has since been anything but calm, what with the unexpected emergence of a giant across the horizon that sent the contest into a vicious tailspin. Another giant is emerging right behind Inos who would make the gubernatorial race halfway complete toward the goal post.

With the right partner, Inos can turn into a powerful opposition capable of upsetting the GOP's apple cart in grand slam fashion. Don't fret, it's just an observation. But why am I hearing the raucous echo of a powerful tidal shift? Is it the strength of intuition of an impending political eruption?

The political narrative is on the side of Democrats. But it can't take things for granted, given that the incumbent has the resources to move his own agenda forward, singing *You Are My Sunshine*. It's all up to Democrats to turn the tune to *Red Sails in the Sunset*.

When each side settles on an agenda, the balance in deciding this year's election is how well it spreads its message among villagers. Any sentient person would want to pry open the two packages to find out which one has provisions even for stormy, rainy days.

Realistically, Inos has stronger experience in governmental affairs and superbly keen and articulate on NMI issues. This is what he brings to the table. They are qualities Torres may not be endowed with, thus the need to play catch-up from the get-go.

Personally, I yearn for well-reasoned set of plans that could be translated into public policies. Indecision on the CW issue turns problematic, e.g., use of the economy as a subterfuge or cover to prolong the program to the detriment of jobless locals. It leaves at the feet of policymakers the query: Whose interest are you representing?

Gubernatorial contenders should know that the NMI must return home to itself to see, with renewed spirit, where re-

dundant and failed paradigms have piled up against the fate of our people. Honing failed paradigms or old unworkable approaches is a tale of complacency. This definitely doesn't even merit casual acquiescence. And if your ideas are outmoded, please pigeonhole them where the sun doesn't shine!

**Casino:** Recently, another casino in Atlantic City, New Jersey, was sold primarily because of revenue decline or losses. This was the effect of other casinos built in recent years in adjoining states. It lured players away from Atlantic City, thus the revenue loss.

On a comparative basis, the casino business here has its natural competitors in nearby Asian countries that are far more equipped in this industry than the NMI.

Macau, the casino mecca of the region, has some 30 casinos. Manila has 16, South Korea, 10; economically well-heeled Singapore has two; one each in Malaysia and Hong Kong, and two in China. Then there's the pending plan to build at least two big ones in Osaka and Yokohama, though this was met with heavy opposition.

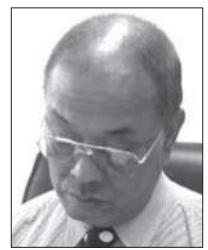
Each country has laws, rules, and regulations governing taxes where winners must pay on a graduated basis. Moreover, the casino pays its share to the local government the amount based on gross gaming revenue. So there's the legal firewall to ensure income taxes are paid! We don't tax the casino here, right? Is there a law governing tax deductions for players who win big?

Across the country in casino land, the federal government taxes gambling winnings at the highest rates allowed. This is also true for many states and even cities that impose income taxes on their residents. If you make enough money in a high-tax state like California or New York, the top tax bracket is about 50 percent. Out of every additional dollar you take in, through work or play, governments take 50 cents.

Wish I could be optimistic of big time revenue generation but must settle for the casino business here devolving into a small component of the tourism industry down the stretch. Someday soon we should tax this business but it takes fiscally responsible policymakers to descend on this fiduciary duty.

**By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.*



Da Boysis are too busy cozying to their grand daddy!

Now, if casino revenue goes Deep South or turns belly up, does the Torres have a back up plan? If so, would you like to share it with us?

**Digital:** Kilili has made available some 3,000 iPads to NMI students and more of it is coming in the near term. It reminded me of my introduction to laptops and the Internet by my late brother Frank more than three decades ago.

I looked at it, pushed it aside, and played some more with my brand new Selectric typewriter. I finally learned its use including the tons of information available on the internet and the ability to write and rewrite my materials, the ease forwarding it directly to the editor via email that saves me gas and eliminates the clerk omitting a word or phrase retyping my stuff.

As the NMI settles into the digital age, it should serve our people well, including medical consultation and medication without going to the clinic or hospital, consultation with teachers for student performance, and access to other agencies for vital information.

Technology is so advanced they now have a device that tells you your blood pressure, sugar level, etc. In fact, there are shopping malls that have implemented what's known as "Carry N' Go". In other words, you select items and walk out the door. The cost of items you've picked shows up in your phone that you must subsequently pay before their due date.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## CUC statement regarding EPA article

CUC acknowledges that it continues to have work to do to satisfy the expectations of Environmental Protection Agency's Stipulated Order 1. However, CUC has been working diligently to address the issues identified in those charges.

CUC has been making use of EPA grant funds to address a number of critical infrastructure repair projects and in every case, significant thought has been put forward to assure that improvements provide not only rehabilitation of a failing asset, but also new efficiencies that will ultimately provide for expanding 24-hour water service islandwide, improved pressures islandwide, and a reduction in water main breaks used by water hammer as we repeatedly turn off and on valves to fix leaks and scheduled water service hours.

Wastewater is just as big a challenge. The treatment facilities are in need of significant rehabilitation, whereas the lift stations

that pump effluent to each treatment facility are being rehabilitated and new wireless connectivity is being added to improve site monitoring of those facilities. Sanitary pipelines are in need of significant improvement and efforts to rehabilitate sections of main will continue in small chunks as funds are made available.

CUC has been advertising for a chief engineer since July 2017 and the applicants are being vetted by EPA.

CUC has conditional approval from EPA of its water and wastewater master plan; however, EPA is asking for a commitment from CUC to fund the recommendations included in the master plan. That issue is not in contention by CUC. The only issue is establishing effective rates for both water and wastewater services that provide funding to pay for those recommendations.

In general, CUC is well along the trail of satisfying the ele-

ments of the master plan but as we all know these plans are long-term and the pace of progress depends on funding availability.

Regarding capital spending efforts on the three islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota, CUC has initiated 50 projects of which 30 are completed and the remainders are a work-in-progress. The total value of EPA-funded capital improvements total \$40-plus million with an additional \$20 million from the U.S. Department of the Interior and Capital Improvement Projects under the Office of Planning and Development. At the same time, CUC is preparing plans, funded through FEMA, to invest in a hardening of the water system infrastructure such that when the next significant weather event occurs, at least 70 percent of the water supply sources will be available immediately following the event. This is targeted for completion in August of 2019.

## 45's Twitter Tales Trilogy

### 45's First Anniversary Anthem

*A freestyle rap in rhyme on our political clime*

One year in place, his head in outer space,  
alternate facts, strategic distracts, missing  
the facts, integrity lacks, crazy to the max  
as he continues constant twit full tweeting  
our nation misplaced, disgraced, and bleeding  
the world looks on in awe and askance  
at his clumsy most unpresidential dance  
while US citizens hope this is his last waltz  
he flip flops on issues, thrives on the false  
can America handle another three years  
will the three generals help him shift gears  
as Bob Dylan sang, "to each his own its all  
unknown when dogs run free." we'll see  
let us hope and pray for our democracy

### 45's Mouthful of Countries

*His mouth found full of personal bull  
not including 'Normay' or 'Nambia'*

Your jaws clenched like a pit bull  
you call entire countries 's\*\*\*hole'  
yet you have swallowed a mouthful  
hey there Mr. bigly blonde liar boy  
with over two thousand lies told  
since inauguration less than a year  
Brightfart now rots out in the cold  
Bannon's frowning from ear to ear  
you summarily reject the DACA plan  
prefer tweeting from your golf course  
your rant anti Haitian and African  
meeting many in a futile effort to stop  
democracy's historic freedom source  
and from your personal bigly s\*\*\*hole  
we notice your mouth completely full.

### 'Twas the Night Before 45's Inauguration

'Twas the night before 45's inauguration anniversary  
and all through the WH, which Trump called a 'dump'  
there were TV's turned on but not a cretin was stirring

### LITERARY NOOK

**By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.*



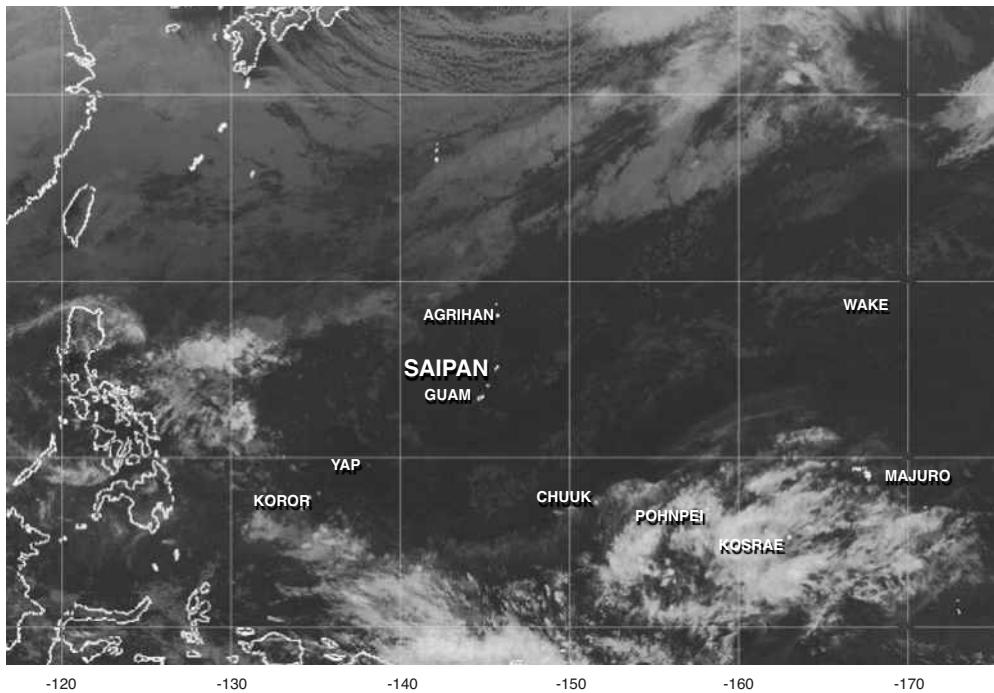
not even the 45th President of the US Donald J Trump stocks were up; a flawed tax bill got passed finally it gave billionaires a big break, 45 so happy to see he bought shares in Brightfart's Wall Construction Company and what to our wandering surveillance cameras did appear but Special Counsel Mueller's rep showing absolutely no fear for testimony, subpoenas, and indictments he commanded just as DJT's helicopter on the WH grounds had landed and the Special Counsel's rep said as he walked out of sight have no fear America there are many more we will indict this tale leaked by (Russian word for 'little mouse') Myshka smuggled into the US after a Russian trip by Jared and Ivanka

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 89° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



## PICTURE TIME: 7:11 AM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2018

WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC BETWEEN EQUATOR AND 25N FROM 130E TO 180.

Marianas are firmly anchored within a dry season trade-wind regime. There is, however, broad multi-model support for a shear line event over the weekend. This is the main forecast problem through at least Friday. The passage of this shear line should increase winds and showers, the amount of increase will be the matter of debate. By midweek the shear line should be clearing back out, returning us to the dry trade-wind regime.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA		▼ ▲ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°
Palau	Showers	86° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		
	DAY	SUNRISE SUNSET
Auckland	Today	6:46 AM 6:12 PM
Beijing	Saturday	6:46 AM 6:12 PM
Hong Kong	Sunday	6:46 AM 6:13 PM
Honolulu	Monday	6:46 AM 6:13 PM
London	Tuesday	6:46 AM 6:14 PM
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	66° / 46°
Manila	Rain	82° / 75°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	93° / 75°
Miami	Windy	72° / 67°
New York	Sunny	42° / 33°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	43° / 34°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	48° / 37°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	37° / 25°
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	59° / 48°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	61° / 47°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	50° / 42°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	25° / 10°
Tokyo	Sunny	41° / 27°
Washington, DC	Sunny	50° / 36°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
2:49 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.40
8:01 AM	LOW TIDE	0.87
2:12 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.91
9:37 PM	LOW TIDE	0.11

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:46 AM	6:12 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:12 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:13 PM
Monday	6:46 AM	6:13 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:14 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:03 AM	1:03 PM
Saturday	-	2:01 AM	1:54 PM
Sunday	-	3:01 AM	2:49 PM
Monday	-	4:04 AM	3:50 PM
Tuesday	-	5:07 AM	4:53 PM

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## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b>				<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b>			
UA6394 4:15am 5:05am Daily				UA6393 2:45am 3:35am Daily			
UA6392 8:40am 9:30am Daily				UA6395 7:15am 8:05am Daily			
UA6391 1:30pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota				UA6391 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7			
UA6390 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6				UA6390 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota			
UA6398 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily				UA6397 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily			
UA6396 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily				UA6399 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily			
<b>SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)</b>				<b>GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)</b>			
UA6391 1:30pm 2:05pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6			
<b>ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)</b>				<b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN</b>			
UA6391 2:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6			
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b>				<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b>			
DL297 4:20pm 7:15pm Daily				DL298 10:30am 3:05pm Daily			
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b>				<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b>			
7C3451 3:10am 6:10am 1, 7				7C3452 9:00pm 2:10am+1 4			
7C3451 4:00am 7:05am 4, 5				7C3452 9:05pm 2:10am+1 3, 6, 7			
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b>				<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b>			
TW308 2:00am 6:05am Daily				7C3402 9:30am 3:00pm Daily			
OZ626 2:10am 6:00am 1				OZ625 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7			
OZ626 2:50am 6:40am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				TW307 7:45pm 1:00am+1 Daily			
UJ652 3:40am 7:30am 1, 4, 5, 7				OZ625 8:20pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6			
7C3403 4:45am 8:30am Daily				UJ651 9:10pm 2:40am+1 3, 4, 6, 7			

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Forced MVA membership harms my business

*Editor's Note: This letter was originally sent to the Senate President, House Speaker; Senate & House Committees, MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, MVA deputy managing director Judy C. Torres, and MVA Tour Guide Certification manager Kuen-hee Han.*

On Jan. 8, 2018, I visited the Marianas Visitors Authority office to begin the application process for the Tour Guide Certification Program. Among the required documentation required is "proof of membership in MVA." I asked, "Is it necessary to become a member of MVA in order to become a certified tour guide if I meet all the other requirements, and if so, why?"

I was told yes, after which I asked to whom I would need to speak about possibly changing this requirement, to which I was told I would need to take it up with the Legislature.

Therefore, as per MVA's direction, I hereby submit the following grievance with the current Tour Guide Certification application process, based on the following:

1. Participation in an opt-in government agency should not be mandatory.

My forced membership in the structure of this government agency will now obligate and bind me to its membership rules, requirements and whatever other terms and conditions membership entails—a decision which, up until now, has been entirely voluntary and up to my discretion as a free, inde-

pendent business owner.

2. Benefits do not constitute valid reason.

When I asked why this requirement existed, I was told it's been under consideration for many years, and I was then offered a description of the benefits MVA provides. Citing the benefits of membership does not constitute justifiable reason for making said membership mandatory. Membership in MVA has been, and should remain, a choice that an individual or business makes based on that individual's or entity's own business model, marketing strategy and interest in participation. In regard to those benefits: I do not wish to be listed in a directory. I do not wish to receive information. I do not wish to attend meetings. I do not wish to have my brochures distributed at trade shows. I do not wish to advertise to the markets MVA targets. I am now being forced to pay a mandatory annual fee for services I do not want, simply for the opportunity to continue to conduct business operations for which I've already paid my business license fee and met requirements.

3. Membership does not prove my competence for the job.

Unlike proof of traffic competence, criminal history, knowledge base, and tax compliance, MVA membership does not make me better qualified, competent, or capable of dispensing my tours or doing business.

4. Dilutes my competitive advantage and threatens my

livelihood.

Forcing me to be an MVA member dilutes my brand identity and eliminates my competitive advantage. As an author writing books about Saipan since 2006, and as a part-time tour guide offering off-the-beaten-path tours for the past 10 years, I've advertised myself as "not affiliated with the tourism board or any government agency." Customers purchase my books and take my tours for that independent perspective. Obligatory membership destroys that competitive advantage and subjects me to bad press and negative reviews in TripAdvisor, CruiseCritic, etc., by clients and customers who will accuse me of misrepresentation.

5. A superfluous requirement.

Further, since MVA now has the power to revoke the certification of individuals who are providing tour guide services, and even has the power to restrict operations of tour guides who are not in compliance in any number of ways regardless of membership in MVA (i.e. members and non-members), then making membership obligatory seems superfluous.

6. An alternate way to generate revenue, perhaps?

According to Public Law 18-58: *The Legislature finds that tourism is an essential component of the Commonwealth's economy and an industry of great interest and importance. It must be harnessed as an engine of socio-economic growth and cultural*

*affirmation to generate investment, foreign exchange and employment, and to continue to mold an enhanced sense of pride for all citizens.*

While I surely understand the imposition of these fees (\$530 inclusive of application, traffic, NMC course) in order to "harness [tourism] as an engine for socio-economic growth," I object to MVA's "fee" being tied to a mandatory requirement for membership.

7. Finally, "It's the law" is not a valid reason for not addressing these concerns.

The mere existence of a law does not justify its continued existence, nor for looking into changing it.

Laws are conceived, written, and enforced by people

with their own biases and blind spots. As students of history know—women's suffrage, slavery, indigenous rights—just because something is "the law" does not mean it is just, right, moral, ethical or fair in its intent or application.

I am hopeful, therefore, that, as indicated by MVA's awareness that there will be "trial and error" ("Regulations are finalized, classes are set, and applications are ready for the tour guide certification program," said acting MVA managing director Judy Torres. "We acknowledge that there will be trial and error in this new program, but we are ready to move forward and grateful to be partnering with NMC on this important initiative." ) (Saipan Tribune, Oct 12, 2017)

And—as per the following lines of P.L. 18-58, *if any provisions of this Act or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby*—that some amendment or modification of requirements can be reached to afford some sort of relief to those in similar circumstance.

I await your response to my request so that I may proceed with the certification process. Thank you.

**Walt Goodridge**  
via email



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Office of the Secretary of Public Works**

2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

**INVITATION FOR BIDS  
DPW-18-IFB-008**

**ROTA ROUTE 10 HAZARD ELIMINATION PROJECT  
PROJECT NO. CM-NH-0010 (003)**

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) is soliciting sealed bids for the Rota Route 10 Hazard Elimination Project, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **January 19, 2018** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

**Breach of Ethical Standard**

- **Gratuities.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept, or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor. **NMIC Section 70-30.3-725 (a)**
- **Kickbacks.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of a subcontractor or order. **NMIC 70-30.3-725 (b)**
- **Contingent fees.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. **NMIC 70-30.3-730**

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **February 8, 2018 9:00 a.m.** local time at the Mayor's Office Conference Room, Rota. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **February 28, 2018** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid. The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW-18-IFB-008". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, March 6, 2018**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, March 6, 2018**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [procurement@ptpicom.com](mailto:procurement@ptpicom.com). For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 6, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **March 15, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, March 19, 2018**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on March 6, 2018**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **\$70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

**Acceptable assets are only:**

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Gov't Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Two Hundred Seventy (270) working days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed according to Table 108-1 of the Standard Specifications for Construction of Roads and Bridges on Federal Highway projects, FP-03.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA  
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLON  
Director of Procurement & Supply

MICHAEL N. EVANGELISTA, ESQ. (CNMI Bar No. F0364)  
LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL NORITA EVANGELISTA, LLC  
D'Torres Building, Garapan  
P.O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 235-8060; Fax: (670) 235-8070  
Email: mnevanagelista@gmail.com

Attorney for Plaintiff Jeon Seon Nam

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARINA ISLANDS**  
JEON SEON NAM, ) Civil Action No.  
Plaintiff, ) 17-0290  
V- )  
WOO, JE CHUN, ) SUMMONS  
Defendant, )

**TO: WOO, JE CHUN**

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Superior Court any Answer you wish to make to the Complaint, which has already been filed against you, within twenty-one (21) days after the date of the 4th publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to the Law Offices of Michael Norita Evangelista, LLC, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Second Floor, D'Torres Building, Garapan, P.O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer.

Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By Order of the above Court: /s/  
DATED 12/21/17  
1st Publication  
Derk of Court

## Invitation to Bid for passenger vans

Northern Marianas Trades Institute is inviting bids for 3 (three) 15-Passenger Vans.

### MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS (equal or better):

Engine Size: 4 or 6 Cylinder; Transmission: Automatic; Model: 2016-18 (new); Medium to High Roof; Color: White Preferred; Air-conditioning; Manual Door Locks; Manual Windows; Standard Rust Proofing/Undercoating (Interior & Exterior); Safety Inspection and Registration; Full Tank of Gas; Warranty: 36 month/36,000 miles comprehensive Coverage; 5 year/60,000 miles power train and engine Coverage plus 5 year Body Panel Corrosion Performance Warranty.

### DEADLINE FOR BID: February 14, 4:30pm

For a full Bid Package email Ross Manglona  
[ross.nmticnmi@gmail.com](mailto:ross.nmticnmi@gmail.com)  
or call (670) 322-6684

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute admits students of any race, color, national origin, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the institute. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarships and loan programs, and other institute-administered programs.



# Nation

## Trump says he's open to pathway to citizenship for Dreamers

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—President Donald Trump says he's open to an immigration plan that would provide a pathway to citizenship for hundreds of thousands of young people who were brought to the country as children and are now here illegally.

"We're going to morph into it," Trump told reporters Wednesday. "It's going to happen, at some point in the future, over a period of 10 to 12 years."

Trump's pronouncements came as the White House announced it would be unveiling a legislative framework on immigration next week that it hopes can pass both the House and the Senate. The president's remarks amounted to a preview of

### Gymnastics doctor sentenced to 40 to 175 years in prison

**LANSING, Mich.** (AP)—The former sports doctor who admitted molesting some of the nation's top gymnasts for years under the guise of medical treatment was sentenced Wednesday to 40 to 175 years in prison by a judge who proudly told him, "I just signed your death warrant."

The sentence capped a remarkable seven-day hearing in which more than 150 women and girls offered statements about being abused by Larry Nassar, a physician who was renowned for treating athletes at the sport's highest levels. Many confronted him face to face in the Michigan courtroom.

"It is my honor and privilege to sentence you. You do

not deserve to walk outside a prison ever again. You have done nothing to control those urges and anywhere you walk, destruction will occur to those most vulnerable," Judge Rosemarie Aquilina said.

Nassar's actions were "precise, calculated, manipulative, devious, despicable," she said.

When the hearing ended, the courtroom broke into applause. Victims and prosecutors embraced at the conclusion of the grueling 16-month case.

But the anguish of the past week will have little, if any, practical effect on Nassar's fate. Before serving the Michigan sentence, the 54-year-old must first serve a 60-year federal sentence for child

pornography crimes. With credit for good behavior, he could complete that sentence in about 55 years. By then, he would be more than 100 years old if still alive.

He is also scheduled to be sentenced next week on more assault convictions in Eaton County, Michigan.

A prosecutor called Nassar "possibly the most prolific serial child sex abuser in history" and said competitive gymnasts provided the "perfect place" for his crimes because victims saw him as a "god."

Prosecutor Angela Povilaitis also said Nassar "perfected a built-in excuse and defense" as a doctor, even though he was "performing hocus-pocus medicine."



Dreamers: "Tell 'em not to be concerned, OK? Tell 'em not to worry. We're going to solve the problem."

Trump has said repeatedly that any deal to protect those immigrants from deportation is contingent on money for the border wall and other security measures. Trump also wants to limit the family members that immigrants are able to sponsor to join them in the U.S. and either replace or transform a visa lottery aimed at increasing diversity.

Trump has given Congress until March to come up with

a plan to protect the nearly 700,000 young people who had been protected from deportation and given the right to work legally in the country under the Obama-era Deferred Action

for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA. Trump announced he was ending DACA last year.

Trump expressed confidence a deal can be reached on the issue, and said he'd like to see one hammered out by the

time he returns from Davos, Switzerland, on Friday.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said earlier Wednesday that the framework to be unveiled Monday "represents a compromise that members of both parties can support."

The White House was trying to take control of the process amid criticism that the president had taken too much of a back seat during recent negotiations and had sent mixed signals that repeatedly upended near-deals.

"The president wants to

lead on this issue, and that's exactly what we're going to do," Sanders said.

Trump had previously ruled out the idea of citizenship for the immigrants known as Dreamers, saying last September: "We're not looking at citizenship. We're not looking at amnesty. We're looking at allowing people to stay here."

But he said Wednesday that providing an opportunity for citizenship had its positives. "I think it's a nice thing to have the incentive of after a period of years being able to become a citizen," he said.

## Video: Police fire up to 9 times, killing stopped motorist

**MCLEAN, Va.** (AP)—A dashboard video released Wednesday shows national park police in Virginia firing their weapons up to nine times at a car they had stopped after a four-minute, stop-and-go chase, killing an apparently unarmed motorist.

Lawyers for the family of the dead motorist, 25-year-old Bijan Ghaisar, said the video provides clear evidence police overreacted.

"No one was even close to being in harm's way until a pair of U.S. Park Police officers repeatedly shot Bijan at close range as he sat, unarmed, in his Jeep on a residential street," lawyers for Ghaisar's family said in a statement Wednesday after the video was made public.

Ghaisar, of McLean, died after the Nov. 17 chase, in which he was shot by U.S. Park Police. Authorities say Ghaisar

fled after being involved in a crash on the George Washington Parkway. The FBI is now investigating the shooting.

Fairfax County Police Chief Edwin Roessler said Wednesday he released the video Wednesday in an effort at transparency.

The four-minute nighttime video shows a chase beginning on the parkway a few miles south of the nation's capital, then turning into a residential neighborhood. It shows the car driven by Ghaisar stopping twice during the chase, and officers approaching the car with guns drawn. In both cases, Ghaisar drives off.

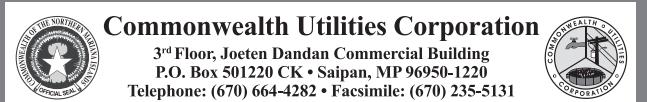
At the third and final stop, officers with guns drawn approach the car at the driver side door. When the car starts to move again, five gunshots are heard. The car starts to drift into a ditch, and two more

sets of two gunshots are heard.

"The video does not provide all the answers," Roessler said in a statement Wednesday accompanying the video's release. "However, we should all have confidence in the FBI's investigation of this matter as I know it will be thorough, objective and professional."

The Ghaisar family's lawyers, Roy Austin and Thomas Connolly, said the video depicts "the senseless killing of a young man at the hands of those charged with protecting public safety."

"Bijan Ghaisar was repeatedly threatened by over-aggressive and out-of-control law enforcement officers, after he drove away from a minor traffic incident in which he was the victim and in which there was little property damage and no known injuries," the lawyers said.



### PUBLIC NOTICE

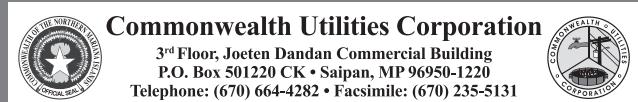
Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC § 9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular meeting on **Thursday, February 1, 2018, at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

#### AGENDA\*

- I. Preliminary Matters
  - A. Call to Order
  - B. Roll Call
  - C. Adoption of Agenda
  - D. Adoption of the Minutes
    - 1. January 2 and 12, 2018 Regular Board Meeting
  - E. Correspondence
- II. Public Comments\*\*
- III. Management Reports
  - A. Executive Director
  - B. Deputy Executive Director
  - C. Chief Financial Officer
  - D. Legal Counsel
    - 1. Report re Stipulated and Order Matters Including Discussion Between Board and DOJ Attorney and EPA Attorney re SO issues
- IV. Old Business
  - A. Net Metering Issues
- V. New Business
- VI. Executive Session\*\*\*  
(Consultation with Legal Counsel Re Personnel and Other Matters)
- VII. Announcements
- VIII. Adjournment

\* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda maybe modified during the meeting. Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

\*\* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.



### PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC § 9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Operations Committee will meet on **January 31, 2018, at 8:30 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Tinian, to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

#### AGENDA\*

- I. Preliminary Matters
  - A. Call to Order
  - B. Roll Call
  - C. Adoption of Agenda
- II. Public Comments\*\*
- III. Site Assessments
  - A. Former Tinian CUC Power Plant
  - B. New Water Tank - Water Boosters
  - C. Telesource Contract
  - D. Waterlines at West San Jose
- IV. Miscellaneous
- V. Executive Session\*\*\*  
(Consultation with the Legal Counsel)
- VI. Adjournment

\* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda maybe modified during the meeting. Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

\*\* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL MVA-RFP-18-2009

#### For: Local Publication and Media Services

Submission /Closing Date:  
Time:

February 23, 2018  
3:00 p.m.

Submit sealed proposals to:

Marianas Visitors Authority  
Procurement Office  
San Jose Professional Building  
Beach Rd., San Jose  
P.O. Box 500861  
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **January 16, 2018**, at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified courier services by February 23, 2018, and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the Commonwealth must notify the MVA/ Mr. David B. Muna in writing of their intent to submit a proposal in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. Participants outside the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands must submit a Notice of Intent by any mode of written communication including facsimile at +1-670-664-3237 or email to dmuna@mymarianas.com, and must be received by 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on **February 23, 2018**.

All questions regarding this RFP must be sent to Mr. David B. Muna at dmuna@mymarianas.com or faxed to +1-670-664-3237, no later than 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on **February 09, 2018**.

/s/ Gloria C. Cavanagh  
Chairperson, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion  
Managing Director

# Asia

## N. Korea planning military event on eve of Pyeongchang Games

**PYONGYANG, North Korea** (AP)—North Korea is preparing to stage a major event to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of its military on Feb. 8 - just one day before the opening ceremony of the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in South Korea.

Officials refuse to confirm what exactly is planned for the event.

A major show of military power could create anger in South Korea, which is hoping the games will be a symbol of peace and stability. Seoul has agreed to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's last-minute proposal to send a delegation to the games and will have its athletes march together with the North Korean team under a blue-and-white "unification flag."

PyonYang residents have been assembling every day in temperatures hovering around minus 15 degrees Celsius (5 degrees Fahrenheit) to practice for what is expected to be a mass rally by civilians in Kim Il Sung Square, while open-source satellite imagery obtained by outside analysts suggests military units are training at an airfield on the outskirts of the city for a possible military parade.

Over the past few days, the area around the square itself has been sporadically closed to traffic.



South Korean police officers walk near the barricade before the arrival of North Korea's delegation and ice hockey players near the Unification Bridge in Paju, South Korea, Thursday, Jan. 25, 2018. AP

The activity in Pyongyang is common before major parades or rallies, which take months to organize and can involve thousands of troops and tens of thousands of civilians assembled in the square with flags, plastic bouquets or colored cards that they raise in unison to create giant slogans visible from the square's raised viewing area.

For security reasons, North Korean officials don't normally release details in advance

about such events. Major military parades are generally attended by Kim Jong Un and other top officials.

North Korea's state-run media hinted earlier this week that an event was in the works, saying the February anniversary, which had for decades been overshadowed by another military anniversary observed on April 25, would be marked with more significance and pomp this year.

Though the report did not

explain why the change was being made, the news raised eyebrows because the February anniversary comes just a day ahead of the opening ceremony for the Pyeongchang Games.

It also comes as the North has been stepping up its verbal attacks on the United States for what it claims is an effort to ruin an easing of tensions between Pyongyang and Seoul ahead of the Olympics.

The U.S. has agreed to postpone joint military exercises

with the South until after the Olympics and Paralympics are over, but North Korea is now demanding they be scrapped indefinitely. The North's media has also accused Washington of trying to provoke tensions by sending aircraft carriers, bombers and stealth fighter aircraft into the region.

North Korea's military parades are closely scrutinized for the unveiling of new missiles or other key weaponry.

But with no official confirmation, it isn't clear if the North

would soften the event out of consideration for the Olympics or—conversely—build it up into an even bigger spectacle for domestic propaganda purposes and as a slap at Washington.

An analysis published Wednesday by 38 North, a website affiliated with Johns Hopkins University, showed satellite images confirming a gradual buildup of troops and equipment at a mock-up of Kim Il Sung Square at the Mirim Parade Training Facility, which is on the city's eastern outskirts, over the past few months.

The analysis, conducted by leading expert Joseph Bermudez, suggests that by Jan. 10 "considerable progress had been made assembling troops and equipment for the upcoming parade."

It said shelters for heavy equipment had been erected. Missiles and their transporters, along with other big vehicles and equipment, often arrive closer to the date of the actual parade and more effort is made to hide them.

None have been seen yet, the report said.

## US Treasury official presses Hong Kong, Beijing on NKorea

**HONG KONG** (AP)—A U.S. Treasury official said Wednesday she has urged officials in Hong Kong and Beijing to step up measures to counter North Korean smuggling and financing, as part of Washington's fine tuning of efforts to shut down Pyongyang's nuclear program.

Treasury Undersecretary for terrorism and financial intelligence Sigal Mandelker said she told Hong Kong officials it should be harder for North Korea to use shell companies registered in the Asian business hub.

Mandelker said she also repeatedly pressed officials in Beijing to expel sanctioned North Koreans in China who facilitate North Korean financial transactions.

Despite various hurdles, she said three increasingly stringent United Nations Security Council resolutions last year on North Korea were having a "significant impact." She did not give any details.

Also Wednesday, Japan's Foreign Ministry said a Japanese Navy surveillance aircraft spotted a sanctioned

North Korean tanker four days ago carrying out what was thought to be an illicit offshore transfer in the East China Sea.

The ministry said in a statement that North Korean-registered Rye Song Gang No. 1 was seen alongside a Dominican-flagged tanker, the Yuk Tung, before dawn on Jan. 20.

The ministry said it reported the sighting, including four photos, to the U.N. Security Council committee on North Korea sanctions.

Ship-to-ship trade with North Korea at sea, including transfers of oil, is prohibited under U.N. sanctions adopted Sept. 11.

The Rye Song Gang No. 1 is among ships on the U.N.'s sanctioned vessel list, which prohibits them from entering ports. The ministry said it appeared to be using a phony name, Song Hae, to evade sanctions.

The sanctions are aimed at depriving North Korea of revenue for its nuclear weapons program and otherwise exerting pressure on the government in Pyongyang.

South Korea's recent seizure of two ships suspected of being

used for illegal oil sales to North Korea revealed a murky web of shell companies listed as their owners or managers, including some registered in Hong Kong.

Two of eight other ships sanctioned by the U.N. last year also have links to Hong Kong shell companies.

The former British colony often tops the business and economic freedom rankings, based on criteria that include ease of setting up business. But that can also facilitate illicit dealings.

"Hong Kong of course is an international finance hub and at the same time it has company formation and registration rules that we think need to be stronger," said Mandelker. She said she discussed that issue with officials including those at Hong Kong's Financial Services and Treasury Bureau.

"This shouldn't be a place where companies can establish themselves to help in the smuggling and ship-to-ship transfers," she said.

Recent scandals about offshore havens revealed Hong Kong to be a global center for front companies.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Erupting PH volcano still swelling with magma below

**LEGAZPI, Philippines** (AP)—A volcano that's been erupting for almost two weeks in the Philippines still appears to be swelling with magma under the surface, scientists said Thursday. More than 74,000 people are staying in dozens of emergency shelters as Mount Mayon continues to belch lava, ash and superheated gas and rocks. Officials are worried the eruption may last months, affecting the education, health and livelihoods of people in its shadow. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said tremors, pyroclastic flows and emissions of sulfur dioxide were detected Wednesday and early Thursday. Lava erupting up to 500 meters (1,640 feet) high was spilling down the slope, with one lava flow extending 3 kilometers (1.8 miles) from the crater. Ash plumes still rising up to 5 kilometers (3 miles) high have spread ash onto farms and towns nearby, darkening the

skies and forcing villagers to wear masks.

#### Japan displays documents to defend claims to disputed isles

**TOKYO** (AP)—The Japanese government opened a small museum Thursday displaying maps and documents to defend its territorial claims against neighbors South Korea and China. The Japanese minister in charge of territorial issues, Tetsuma Esaki, said it was important for Japan to improve how information about disputed islands "is transmitted both internally and externally, so as to ensure as widely as possible that our claims are understood correctly. The National Museum of Territory and Sovereignty displays replicas of historic documents that Japan says show its ownership of two sets of uninhabited islands, one also claimed by China and the other by South Korea. The dispute with China has heated up in recent years, with Chinese coast guard ships sailing near

the islands and their Japanese counterparts trying to chase them away.

#### Pakistani suspect in child killings brought before tribunal

**LAHORE, Pakistan** (AP)—A Pakistani court has given police two weeks to interrogate a suspect arrested in the brutal killings of eight children in the eastern city of Kasur. Ahsanullah Chauhan, a police investigator, says the suspect, Mohammad Imran, was presented before a judge in Lahore on Wednesday, amid tight security. Imran's arrest came two weeks after 7-year-old Zainab Ansari was assaulted and her body thrown in a garbage dump early this month. He is suspected in her death and in those of at least seven other children. Zainab's death stirred outrage across the country and brought to light the other abductions and slayings by a suspected serial predator. Police said on Tuesday that Imran had confessed to the murders.

# World

## Israel official doubted Palestinian protest icon, her family

JERUSALEM (AP) —

A senior Israeli official on Wednesday said he led a secret investigation into 16-year-old Palestinian protest icon Ahed Tamimi and her family, in part because their appearance—including “blond-haired, freckled” children in “Western clothes”—made them seem less like “real” Palestinians.

The stunning comments by Michael Oren, a deputy minister and former ambassador to the United States, promptly drew accusations of racism from the family—the latest twist in a case that has turned into a public relations headache for Israel.

The case revolves around Israel’s handling of Ahed Tamimi, who was arrested on Dec. 19 for slapping two Israeli soldiers outside her West Bank home four days earlier.

Video of the scuffle quickly spread, giving Ahed worldwide attention. The girl, noticeable for her long blond curls, and her mother are now being held in jail. Ahed faces charges that carry up to 14 years in prison.

Oren told The Associated Press that he had led a classified parliamentary investigation into the Tamimis two years ago in which Israeli security agencies and diplomats participated.

The family has a long history of leading protests against Israeli policies in the West Bank that often turn into clashes with soldiers in their village of Nabi Saleh and Ahed has been involved in highly publicized scuffles with soldiers in the past.

Oren said his investigation



Ahed Tamimi is brought to a courtroom inside the Ofer military prison near Jerusalem, Monday, Jan. 15, 2018. AP

She yells at them, tells them to leave, then kicks and slaps them as they stand silently.

The family says the girl was upset because a young cousin had been shot in the head and seriously wounded with a rubber bullet fired by Israeli troops. But the altercation drew outrage in Israel over what some had seen as a humiliation of the military.

In a reflection of the tensions, Israel’s defense minister, Avigdor Lieberman, ordered the popular Army Radio station to ban any songs composed by Yehonatan Geffen, a leading journalist and songwriter, because of a poem he published that praised Ahed. Israel’s attorney general ruled that Lieberman has no authority over the station’s programming.

Opposition lawmaker Nachman Shai, a former chief military spokesman who is often critical of the government, acknowledged that the incident has become part of the war for the “hearts and minds” of people around the world.

But he said Israel had no choice in how to handle the case.

“She does not deserve to return home as if nothing happened,” he said. “You cannot ignore it, because that will cause other Palestinians to follow her.”

looked into whether the protests were genuine or whether the family members were provocateurs, paid to send children to clash with soldiers.

Derisively calling the skirmishes caught on tape “Pallywood,” Oren claimed that “someone” was funding the unrest to harm Israel’s image, without providing evidence.

He called it a “very sophisticated operation” that has succeeded in manipulating the Western press.

In an interview with Israeli Channel 10 TV, Oren claimed one boy appeared in different

videos with a cast on one arm at one protest, and on his other arm at another protest, before disappearing from demonstrations altogether.

In a statement from his office, Oren said: “In discussions held in the committee, the issue of the family’s credibility was raised and if it really is a real family.”

Ahed’s father, Bassem Tamimi, called Oren’s investigation “silly and stupid” and said the investigation was racist.

“We, the Tamimi family,

were here in Palestine before the creation of Israel, and we will stay,” he said. “Denying that Palestinians could be blond reflects racism in the Israeli society.”

Ahed has been celebrated by Palestinians as a national hero, and Israel’s treatment of her has drawn the attention of international activists, human rights groups and U.N. officials.

In the Dec. 15 video, she is seen approaching two soldiers standing outside her home.

## Egypt rights lawyer latest presidential hopeful to quit race

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian presidential hopeful and rights lawyer Khaled Ali quit the race

forgery and incitement against the armed forces.

Ali, a major left-leaning figure in the 2011 uprising that toppled autocrat Hosni Mubarak, told a news conference at his campaign headquarters in downtown Cairo that he would not enter the race.

“People’s confidence that this election can be transformed into an opportunity to have a new start has, in my view, regrettably ended,” he said.

He said many of his supporters outside Cairo have been arrested and convicted on terror charges he called “ridiculous.” He said poor

Egyptians had been bribed to sign documents supporting el-Sissi’s candidacy and that the election commission had ignored some of his campaign’s requests, including one for the removal of billboards declaring support for el-Sissi that have sprung up before the official start of campaigning.

“All indications pointed to a premeditated intention to poison the entire process and

empty it of its supposed democratic content,” he said.

Ali’s candidacy was already at risk. Soon after he announced his plans to run last year, he was tried and convicted in September on public obscenity charges—for giving a middle finger during celebrations outside a Cairo courthouse months earlier following a ruling against the government’s agreement to cede control of two strategic Red Sea islands to Saudi Arabia.

If his conviction is upheld on appeal, Ali would be ineligible to run. The next appeal hearing is on March 7.

Under the constitution, any potential candidate must secure

25,000 “recommendations” from voters or the support of 20 lawmakers to be eligible to run. El-Sissi already has the support of more than 500 of parliament’s 596 lawmakers, but there has been a fervent campaign to top that off with voter recommendations as well.

On Wednesday, his official Facebook page posted images

of workers unloading boxes of recommendations from a van, each bearing the president’s image and the slogan “Long live Egypt!”

If only el-Sissi runs in the March 26-28 election, it would resemble the one-candidate referendums that confirmed presidents with “yes” votes routinely over 95 percent during decades of authoritarian rule in Egypt, starting with the establishment of the republic nearly 70 years go.

Beside Ali, two would-be challengers have withdrawn from the race and another two have been arrested, including the former military chief of staff, Sami Annan.

Asked about Annan, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said the world body was concerned about his arrest.

“We urge the authorities in Egypt to ensure that the election campaign is conducted in a credible, inclusive, peaceful and participatory manner in full compliance with the existing law,” Dujarric said.

## Guatemala prosecutors detail probe into Odebrecht bribes

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — Prosecutors revealed details Wednesday of an investigation into \$17.9 million in bribes allegedly paid by the Brazilian company Odebrecht to local officials, politicians and private citizens in Guatemala.

Odebrecht has admitted paying bribes across Latin America to win government contracts, and Guatemalan chief prosecutor Thelma Aldana said at a news conference that investigators have records for bank accounts used for their payment and receipt in the Central American nation.

Former Communications Minister Alejandro Sinibaldi is alleged to have coordinated receipt and distribution of the money and to have taken in \$9 million. Sinibaldi is currently

a fugitive from justice.

Also purportedly involved was former presidential candidate Manuel Baldizón, who was detained recently in Florida on an international arrest warrant. Baldizón is alleged to have received at least \$1.3 million as a product of bribes.

Another suspect is Arturo Batres Gil, an alleged front-man for businesspeople who is believed to have received \$4.9 million.

Prosecutors have not ruled out that more people may have been involved.

Aldana said two people of Brazilian origin acknowledged delivering bribes and paid \$68,000 in fines apiece. By law they could not be tried in Guatemala since they are already facing a legal case in Brazil.

El-Sissi, who submitted his formal candidacy documents earlier Wednesday, was always considered virtually certain to win a second, four-year term no matter who ran against him.

But the past weeks have seen a string of would-be contenders who could have garnered a notable protest vote drop away.

One of them, a retired general and former chief of staff, was detained by the military on Tuesday for investigation on a slate of charges, including

# Off The Wall



In this Jan. 11, 2018 photo, from left, Torben Bertram, Patricia Bernreuther and Norbert Buddendick sit behind cups with potato chips during a training session of Germany's first sofa sports association in Berlin.

## New Year's resolutions? Group of German couch potatoes says no

**BERLIN** (AP)—It's that time of the year to fulfill those ambitious New Year's resolutions again: More vegetables, less alcohol, sign up for the gym.

But not for Torben Bertram. Fed up with colleagues who kept pressuring him to join workout sessions during his lunch break, the 39-year-old Berliner founded Germany's first couch potato club.

Bertram says his Sofa Sports Association is proudly geared toward the non-vegan, non-overachieving, non-career-obsessed masses.

"I just didn't like this constant pressure to improve myself," Bertram said, adding that

he is the antithesis of many young people in Berlin: Skinny, well-groomed but stressed.

Club activities include swaying back and forth, like in a beer hall; the "Tarzan yell"—beating your chest with your fists and yelling; and the potato chip competition, consisting of eating a plastic cup full of chips without using one's hands—a favorite among the club's child members.

The club has been meeting for about a year at bars and pubs in the German capital and now boasts 25 members from 8 to 64 years old. Men, women and children are all welcome. Bertram's wife ini-

tially thought sofa sports was "nonsense"—but she joined anyway, Bertram said with a smug smile.

The father of two, who works in political communications, sports a goatee and has a penchant for cycling shirts that are too tight around the belly. He speaks with eyes full of mischief, suggesting one shouldn't take everything he says at face value.

Lounging on a worn-out couch at one of his favorite bars in Berlin, Bertram said the club only meets in bars with sofas, where everyone is encouraged to participate in the club's unique fitness program.

### OFFBEAT BRIEFS

#### Freshman emails every Claudia on campus after Tinder mishap

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** (AP)—A Missouri State University student who feared he swiped a potential sweetheart out of his life with a dating app mishap has emailed every Claudia on campus to find her. The freshman meant to swipe right on the woman's Tinder profile—a sign that he wanted to meet her. Instead he swiped left, rejecting her. All he knew was her first name and that she also was a Missouri State student. Over the weekend, he began emailing the 22 Claudiias on campus, offering to take the one that got away out for doughnuts. When freshman Claudia Alley got the email, she knew it was about her because it referenced a joke in her bio on the app. She told the Springfield News-Leader she's agreed to the doughnut date.

#### Full school bus slides down icy street, students unhurt

**SUTTON, Mass.** (AP)—Officials in a Massachusetts town say no one was hurt when a school bus full of middle and high school students slid backward down an icy road and crashed into a stopped car. A nearby resident captured video of the crash early Tuesday in Sutton. Neither vehicle was badly damaged, and the bus continued on to school after the crash. Later Tuesday, a Sutton school van crashed into a pole. Two adults and a child were hospitalized after that crash. Sutton Superintendent Theodore Friend says he consulted with other school administrators and highway officials before deciding to send the buses out. He says most main roads

had been treated before the first crash, but some smaller roads had not.

#### Police: Angry fast-food worker beans supervisor with burrito

**SPARTANBURG, S.C.** (AP)—Police say a fast-food worker upset at having to work a morning shift has given new meaning to a burrito to go, slinging a hot one at his Taco Bell supervisor. Police in South Carolina say officers were called to the Spartanburg eatery Monday, where a supervisor reported telling the worker to "stop being a crybaby"—just before being beaned with the food-filled projectile. A police report says the supervisor had turned away when melted cheese from the airborne burrito splattered her left arm, side and leg. Gooey stuff also "made a mess of the entire kitchen," police say. Police say the worker didn't stop there, adding they were told he took off his headset, broke it on his knee and "stormed out." No arrests have been made.

#### California cop feeds critter for Squirrel Appreciation Day

**CLOVIS, Calif.** (AP)—You may have overlooked Squirrel Appreciation Day, but the police force in Clovis, California, didn't forget. The Fresno Bee reports that on Sunday the Clovis Police Department posted a video on its Facebook page showing Officer John McGrory give a nut to a squirrel that scampered over to him. The squirrel calmly took the nut and bounced back to a tree as McGrory laughed. Squirrel Appreciation Day is celebrated every Jan. 21.

# Science & Technology

## How to fix a PC that's 'out of memory'

**Q** I frequently get an "out of memory" message on my Windows 7 PC, and usually have to shut down the PC to get rid of it. What can I do about this?

**A** There are several possible reasons you got the "out of memory" message, but often it means your PC's RAM (random access memory) is full.

RAM, or computer chip memory, holds the data you are working with at the moment, so it's typically the first storage area that fills up. There are two possible solutions: Close some programs or browser windows to free up memory space for others. Alternatively, you can run an automated software fix from Microsoft (see tinyurl.com/y948cbn4) that rearranges the way your PC uses memory, devoting more of it to running programs.

But those actions may not be enough to solve the problem if your PC has too little RAM. To find out whether your PC has enough RAM, go to Control Panel and click on "system." In the resulting menu, look at "installed memory (RAM)" (the number of gigabytes) and "system type" (either a 32-bit or 64-bit version of Windows 7).

If your PC has a 32-bit version of Windows 7, it should have 4 gigabytes of RAM. If it's the 64-bit version, it should have at least 8 gigabytes of RAM. If your PC has less RAM than I have suggested, ask a repair shop to install more.

If that doesn't solve the problem, you may be getting the "out of memory" message because your PC's hard disk is too full. (If your RAM memory is full, the computer will try to borrow some empty storage space on the hard disk to handle the RAM overflow. If there is too little hard disk space available, the borrowing process won't work.)

You can find out how full the hard disk is by going to Windows Explorer and right-clicking the "C" disk (which is the hard disk.) In the resulting menu, click "properties." In the next list, check

### TECH Q&A



By STEVE ALEXANDER  
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

the "used space" and "free space" headings to see how much of the disk is currently in use.

If the hard disk has less than a few hundred megabytes of free space, you will need to

delete some data. First empty your PC's recycle bin, then empty the cache, or temporary storage, used by your Web browser (see tinyurl.com/brfbqmx). If that's not enough, you will have to delete some programs or personal data (save your personal data to a flash drive first.)

**Q** My friends with the CenturyLink e-mail addresses q.com and centurylink.net receive only about one-third of the e-mails I send them from my comcast.net address. I'm notified that the others can't be delivered. But I receive all the messages my friends send me. Why does this happen, and what can I do about it?

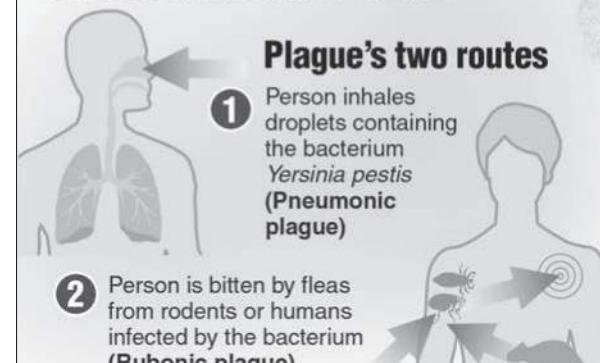
**A** You are most likely caught up in a blame game between internet service providers. If customers on provider A's network send too much spam (junk e-mail) to customers on provider B's network, B temporarily blocks all e-mail coming from A. In essence, B is warning A to do a better job of policing its own network to eliminate spammers.

As an experiment, try a free e-mail account from Google, Yahoo or Microsoft to see if more of your e-mails are received.

### Science Matters

## European plagues spread by rodents' fleas – or humans'?

A new study contradicts the usual theory on Europe's plagues — that rats carried it in their fleas between ports and crowded cities.



### Old records, death patterns and math analysis

Plague epidemics develop with these different patterns of deaths, depending on how the disease is transmitted:

**1** Plague spread between people by fleas and lice (gradual onset, gradual end)

**2** Plague is passed by fleas from rodents to humans (fast onset, prompt end)

**3** Plague is transmitted through the air and inhaled (fast onset, rapid end)



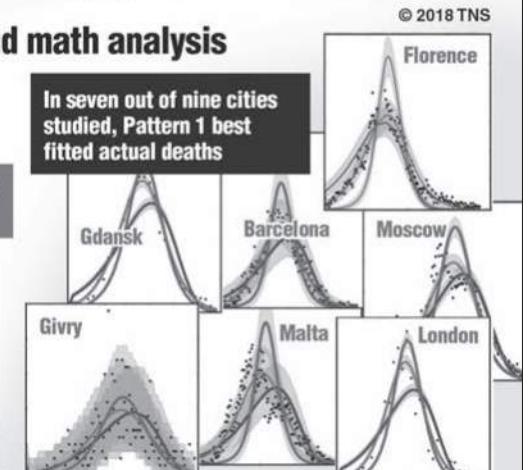
### Malta (1813)

#### Europe's Second Pandemic

A series of plague outbreaks from the medieval Black Death until Napoleon's time

Map locates places where researchers examined disease and death records

© 2018 TNS



Source: Katharine Rose Dean and Nils Stenseth of University of Oslo; Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

# Life & Style

# Elton John says upcoming tour will be his last

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Elton John is retiring from the road after his upcoming three-year global tour, capping nearly 50 years on stages around the world. He calls it a “way to go out with a bang.”

“I’ve had a good run, I think you’d admit that,” John said Wednesday, adding that he wanted to “leave people thinking, ‘I saw the last tour and it was fantastic.’”

The 70-year-old singer, pianist and composer said he wanted to spend time with his family. His children will be 10 and 8 when the tour ends in 2021, and John said he hoped he might be able to take them to soccer practice. “My priorities now are my children and my husband and my family,” he said. “This is the end.”

John made the announcement at an event in New York in which he sat at a piano and performed “Tiny Dancer” and “I’m Still Standing.” He wore his signature glasses and a colorful suit jacket that read “Gucci Loves Elton.”

His final tour—dubbed “Farewell Yellow Brick Road”—starts on Sept. 8 in Allentown, Pennsylvania. It will consist of 300 shows in



Singer Elton John announces final world tour at Gotham Hall on Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2018, in New York.

citis and has been fitted with a pacemaker. But on Wednesday he said he’s “in great health.”

In an interview after the announcement, John told The Associated Press, “10 years ago, I wanted to die onstage.”

“I just never thought fatherhood could bring me so much joy, and I came to fatherhood late in the day, but it’s been one of the miracles of my life,” said John, who said he plans to take his kids on the road for some of the shows.

He said two children keep him and husband David Furnish busy: “We thought about (more kids) but we said, ‘No.’ We have enough on our plate with these two. If we were 10, 15 years younger, we probably would have, definitely. I would love to have a little girl.”

At the Grammy Awards, to be presented in New York on Sunday, John is to perform alongside Miley Cyrus and will collect the President’s Merit Award. His Vegas residency ends in May after six years. His hits include “Your Song” and “Candle in the Wind.” He has won five Grammys, an Oscar, a Golden Globe for “The Lion King” and a Tony Award for “Aida.” He is the recipient of a Kennedy Center Honor and has sold 300 million records.

## 6th woman alleges rape by Def Jam co-founder Russell Simmons

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—A woman said in a lawsuit filed Wednesday that Russell Simmons raped her at his Los Angeles home in 2016, joining five other women who have publicly leveled rape allegations against the music mogul.

Simmons, a co-founder of Def Jam Recordings, denied the newest allegations as he did the previous ones.



Simmons

my day in court—where, unlike the court of public opinion, I will have the ability to make use of fair processes that ensure that justice will be done and that the full truth will be known,” Simmons said in a statement.

He did not address the specific claims in Jarosik’s lawsuit, saying, “I will not litigate this matter in the media.”

But in the lengthy statement he says that the allegations of women against him range “from the patently untrue to the frivolous and hurtful.”

“These horrific accusations have shocked me to my core and all of my relations have been consensual,” Simmons said.

Three women told the New York Times in a story published in December that Simmons had raped them in the 1980s or 1990s, including an executive who answered to Simmons at his record label, Def Jam Recordings.

Two other women, a model and a screenwriter, previously

alleged that Simmons raped them in 1991.

Jarosik had told friends about the rape but did not go public or call authorities because she partly blamed herself for not having the strength to fight him off, the suit said.

Jarosik, 37, said she was prompted to come forward after hearing other women’s stories about Simmons.

The women’s stories came in a cascade of serious allegations of sexual misconduct against powerful men in entertainment, media, politics and elsewhere.

Simmons, whose company Def Jam made stars of hip-hop artists such as LL Cool J, Slick Rick, The Beastie Boys and Public Enemy, is one of the few music industry icons caught up in the recent wave of allegations that so-far has struck mostly those in the movie industry, journalism and politics.

“The music industry and the hip-hop industry have a history of misogyny and the exploitation of women,” Jarosik’s attorney Perry Wander told The Associated Press. “It’s time that they faced the music.”

He said he may do a residency after the tour wraps, but ruled out the idea of using a hologram of himself. He called it “spooky” and “a bit freaky,” and said he told his kids to “promise me that there won’t be a hologram of me.”

“Who knows? They may go

broke and put me back on the (expletive) stage,” he added.

John has suffered several medical setbacks of late, including a bacterial infection last year that he contracted during a South American tour and an E. coli bacterial infection in 2009. He’s also suffered an appendi-

## Divorce lawyer to the stars launches site to simplify breakups

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—For years, Laura Wasser has been one of the go-to divorce attorneys when Hollywood power couples break up.

Now Wasser wants to bring some of the strategies she’s developed during her career representing stars such as Angelina Jolie, Christina Aguilera and Johnny Depp to help regular couples. Her new site, It’s Over Easy, aims to get couples divorced from their computers or tablets, without having to hire an attorney—or ever set foot in a courthouse.

The website’s formal launch Thursday will allow couples in New York County and throughout California to handle their divorces and child custody arrangements online. Wasser said the inspiration came from her own online shopping habits, and hearing from people who want to handle their own divorces but find the process too confusing, expensive, intimidating—or all of those things and more.

“I feel like there’s so many people who these days shop online, date online, bank online—maybe they actually even met dating online—and

now they’re married,” she said. “Why not give them the opportunity to do this online?”

She said the site’s goal is “changing the face of divorce.” It requires both parties to use the site to complete their judgment, although work is transferrable to a lawyer if needed.

The process is based on core questions Wasser asks clients and techniques she uses to try to keep breakups amicable.

Wasser, 49, said she urges people undergoing a divorce or end of a long-term relationship to try to think about the moments they really cared for the other person, such as when they proposed marriage or the birth of a child. “Try to get back to them and realize that there is something good that did come out of your relationship. Focus on that and try to find a way forward,” she said. “It’s so much better for your emotional health to be able to do it that way.”

It’s Over Easy is part service-oriented and part-life-styles site, with Wasser and others sharing their approaches to managing finances during a breakup, co-parenting children, and surviving holiday gatherings.

Users of the site fill in financial information and details about what days are most important for them to have their children. At the end of process, both sides will have documents that can lead to legal divorces and custody agreements.

The site has three tiers, ranging from \$750 for a guided do-it-yourself filing to a premium, \$2,500 service that includes filing of court documents, 90 minutes of mediation counseling and document filing with the court.

Wasser’s services, by comparison, start with a \$25,000 retainer and \$850 an hour.

The site could even work for some of her clients. “I think there are probably some that can go through this process. They probably wouldn’t mind seeing me less, paying me less,” she joked.

Other sites offer similar services, such as Wevorce, which is affiliated with another online legal resource, LegalZoom. But those services aren’t fronted by a lawyer like Wasser, who doesn’t comment about her celebrity clients but is familiar to readers of TMZ and other celebrity sites.

# Candice Bergen to star in CBS' "Murphy Brown" revival

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Candice Bergen is returning to TV in a revival of "Murphy Brown," the agenda-setting 20th-century comedy.

CBS said in a Wednesday announcement that it's ordered 13 episodes of the sitcom for its 2018-19 season.

Diane English created the original series that starred Bergen as a hard-charging TV journalist. English is back as writer and executive producer for the reboot.

CBS suggested the show is ready for to embrace the current zeitgeist.

"As its 30th anniversary approaches, 'Murphy Brown' returns to a world of cable news, social media, fake news and a very different political and cultural climate," the network

said in a statement.

Bergen, who won multiple lead-actress Emmys for the original, will be an executive producer, CBS says. The 71-year-old actress will be reprising her role, while other casting wasn't announced.

The series addressed hot-button social and political issues, drawing applause and the ire of critics including then-Vice President Dan Quayle. It ran for 10 seasons from 1988 to 1998.

"Murphy Brown" became a focal point during the 1992 George H.W. Bush-Bill Clinton presidential campaign when Quayle criticized a plot line that had the unmarried Brown having a child. He said

it damaged family values.

When Bergen won her second Emmy for the role that year, she jokingly thanked Quayle and "the members of the cultural elite."

Bergen won five Emmys for the role, finally taking herself out of the running to in 1996 give other actresses a chance. Overall, "Murphy Brown" captured a total of 18 trophies.

In the final season, a story line about Brown's breast cancer revived attention to the show as its ratings fell. In one episode, Bergen's character smoked marijuana to ease the pain of chemotherapy, a move both praised and condemned.

In a 1988 interview with

The Associated Press, the Oscar-nominated Bergen ("Starting Over," 1980) said seeing the first script about an aggressive TV reporter fresh out of alcohol and nicotine rehab persuaded her to take the job.

"I wasn't quite ready to do a television series, but then there were whispers about this pilot script," Bergen said, with people telling her, "You know there's this pilot script that's as if it's been written for you."

Other cast members in the original series included Charles Kimbrough as Jim Dial; Joe Regalbuto as Frank Fontana; Faith Ford as Corky Sherwood and Grant Shaud as Miles Silverberg.

Robert Pastorelli, who played Eldin the housepainter, died in 2004.



Bergen

## Imagine Dragons front man advocates for LGBT Mormons in film

**PARK CITY, Utah** (AP)—The Mormon front man of the rock band Imagine Dragons hopes the Sundance Film Festival documentary that follows his journey to becoming an advocate for LGBT Mormon youth triggers real change by his church's leaders and puts an end to what he calls "shaming" of gay and lesbian kids in the faith.

Singer Dan Reynolds said he and director Don Argott made the film "Believer" to put a "face to the faceless and a voice to the voiceless." His goal is to show leaders from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints that opposition to same-sex relationships is damaging the self-worth of gay, lesbian and transgender kids.

"These kids are being told their most innate sense of being is sinful," said Reynolds, a Mormon from Las Vegas. "Shaming is so destructive."

The film received a standing ovation at its premiere Sunday in Park City and is showing a fourth and final time Saturday night. It's set to air on HBO in the summer.

The Utah-based Mormon faith of 16 million members worldwide is holding firm to doctrinal opposition of gay marriage and homosexual activity while trying to foster an empathetic stance toward LGBT people and end bullying.

Last year, church leaders updated a website created in 2012 to let members know that attraction to people of the same sex is not a sin or a measure of their faithfulness and may never go away. But the church reminded members that being in an intimate same-sex relationship is a sin because it violates fundamental doctrinal beliefs that will not change.

In the film, Argott follows Reynolds and former Mormon Tyler Glenn, a gay lead



doctrine can be altered only through revelations from God.

Asked by reporters last week about how the faith will deal with LGBT issues going forward, new church president Russell M. Nelson and one of his top counselors said they are trying to balance the "love of the Lord and the law of the Lord."

Nelson previously defended the church's 2015 decision to adopt new rules banning children living with gay parents from being baptized until age 18 and clarifying that people in same-sex relationships are considered apostates, meaning they can be kicked out of the religion.

Reynolds said rising suicide rates in Utah were a big reason behind his decision to make the film, which follows his life for a year as he and Tyler decide to create the LoveLoud Festival.

The number of yearly suicides for youth ages 10-17 in Utah has spiked to alarming levels in the last five years—more than double the average from the previous decade.

LGBT advocacy groups theorize that it could be linked to the struggle by gay and lesbian Mormon teens to feel accepted. As many of two-thirds of Utah's 3 million residents are members of the Mormon church.

State and federal health investigators who have closely examined the increase in teen suicide rates say more needs to be done to assess the role sexual orientation plays in the rise, but that the information available shows only a fraction of the cases were definitely linked to the youth's sexual orientation.

Utah Gov. Gary Herbert, a Republican, has created a new task force that includes a high-ranking Mormon leader, the Utah Jazz owner and the leader of an LGBT rights group to search for ways to stop the state's rise in teen suicides.

AP  
Director Don Argott, left, and Dan Reynolds pose for a portrait to promote the film, "Believer", at the Music Lodge during the Sundance Film Festival on Sunday, Jan. 21, 2018, in Park City, Utah.

singer of Neon Trees, as they plan the LoveLoud Festival, a concert last summer in Utah headlined by Imagine Dragons that raised funds for organizations supporting at-risk LGBT youth.

The Mormon church supported the festival, praising organizers for bringing "people together to address teen safety and to express respect and love for all of God's children."

Church spokesman Eric Hawkins said in a statement Tuesday that the religion's support of that festival was part of a message that's not new for the faith.

"We have repeatedly denounced cruelty, rejection, bullying, and the mistreatment of others," Hawkins said. "We lobbied in support of Utah's strong antidiscrimination laws. The church's message is one of

hope, compassion, and understanding. We want our LGBT brothers and sisters to know that there is a place for them and their contributions in the church. There is more to do, and we remain fully committed to these efforts moving forward."

Reynolds, 30, said in an interview this week that "platitudes" from church officials about love for LGBT Mormons and telling them "there's a place for them" isn't enough.

He has talked with church leaders about the issue and hopes to continue doing so but said the church's "platitudes are empty words" until and unless it changes its doctrine to accommodate gay marriage and homosexual sex.

The Mormon church has shown no indication it will consider changing the belief. Members believe church

## Streep starring in season 2 of "Big Little Lies"

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—

Meryl Streep is starring in season two of "Big Little Lies," adding more woman power to the Nicole Kidman-Reese Witherspoon drama.



Streep

Actors Guild awards as best series. Kidman, Skarsgard and Laura Dern also collected multiple trophies.

Streep, the most-nominated actor in Oscar history, picked up her 21st nod for this year's awards for her role in the newspaper drama "The Post."

Major film stars have been lured to TV by the cable and programming boon, but Streep is the biggest catch yet—especially at a time in which the industry has been forced to pay heed to its treatment of women by the sexual misconduct scandal and pay parity criticism.

No air date has been set.

## NYC, Grammy officials sparring over expense of award show

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The return of the Grammys to New York City for the first time in 15 years has hit a sour note,

with the Recording Academy complaining that the city hasn't met its commitment to shoulder the added costs of staging the awards ceremony.

New York City officials had lobbied hard to get the show back after many years in Los Angeles, including cajoling business groups and sponsors into subsidizing the lavish awards show.

Recording Academy President Neil Portnow said it is costing \$6 million to \$8 million more to produce the Grammys in New York than in Los Angeles and New York City hasn't done all it said it would to make up the shortfall.

New York City officials say they've raised the money they promised and expect a great show when the 60th anniversary Grammys ceremony takes over Madison Square Garden on Sunday.

"The city fully met all of its obligations to the academy," Julie Menin, the commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment, said Wednesday.

Menin recruited business groups, unions and corporate sponsors to raise close to \$5 million in contributions and labor concessions for the 2018 Grammys. No public dollars were spent, she said.

Kathryn Wylde, president of the Partnership for New York City, which was part of the campaign, said the mood was celebratory at the Grammy party she attended this week.

"From everything I understand, the city and the host committee have met all their commitments to the academy and the foundation and the program is going forward without any issues," Wylde said.

The academy has already announced the ceremony is going back to Los Angeles next year for at least four years.

The Grammys used to switch between New York and Los Angeles every year or so, but that ended in 1998, when then-mayor Rudy Giuliani got into a dispute with then-academy president Michael Greene.

"We could replace the Grammys in about a day," he said, boasting that the city didn't need the show or the influx of industry spending that supposedly boosted the local economy. "You say we're going to lose \$40 million? We'll replace that with three other things in a day. I'm serious."

The Grammys spent the next four years in Los Angeles. It returned once to New York in 2003 after a new mayor took office, and then went back to L.A.'s Staples Center until now.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio heralded the show's return Monday when he joined Portnow at a ribbon-cutting for the academy's new East Coast offices.

"This is the biggest night in music returning to the musical capital of the world and that feels really good," he said.

Portnow said Wednesday that neither the promised union concessions nor corporate sponsorships were as large as the academy expected.

# Mila Kunis to be honored with parade, roast at Harvard

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass.** (AP) — Mila Kunis is being honored with a parade and roast at Harvard University.

The “That ‘70s Show” actress is being honored Thursday as Woman of the Year by Harvard University’s Hasty Pudding Theatricals. The group calls Kunis one of Hollywood’s “most sought

after, vivacious, and engaging actresses.”

The Ukraine-born actress earned a Golden Globe nomination for her role in 2010’s “Black Swan.” She also starred in “Bad Moms” and is the voice of Meg Griffin on “Family Guy.”

Hasty Pudding is the nation’s oldest collegiate the-

atrical organization. It’s been naming a Woman of the Year since 1951 but in recent years it’s come under fire for excluding women from performing in its annual shows.

Some critics want Kunis to reconsider her invitation over the casting policy, but she hasn’t commented.

## Woman says dumpster find is valuable piece of art

**MILFORD, Conn.** (AP) — A Connecticut woman says she recently discovered an etching her late father grabbed from a Yale University dumpster close to 20 years ago is a valuable piece of art.

Cheryl Conroy Warren tells the New Haven Register on

Tuesday she learned from an appraiser with the television show “Antiques Roadshow” the etching is an original work by Chinese artist Zao Wou-Ki. Its estimated value is between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

The appraiser told her the piece is titled “Flora and

Fauna” and it’s No. 190 of the 200 the artist made.

Warren says her father, Arnold Conroy, had a habit of picking up items from worksites while he worked construction.

Warren says she plans to sell the piece and give the money to her mother.



In this Oct. 30, 2017 file photo, Mila Kunis arrives at the Los Angeles premiere of «A Bad Moms Christmas.» AP

## Why feminists want Mila Kunis to turn down a Harvard award

**BOSTON** (AP)—A Harvard University theater group with an all-male cast is under fire from those who say it should allow women onstage—and they’re asking Mila Kunis to take up their cause.

Detractors are calling on the Hasty Pudding troupe to start casting women and to update sexist portrayals of women. Amid the debate, some are calling on Kunis to reconsider her acceptance of the group’s Woman of the Year award on Thursday to protest the exclusion.

“It would be a wonderful thing for her to not accept this award, to say this is gender inequality,” said Liz Kantor, a senior studying molecular and cellular biology, who auditioned for this year’s show. “There are women on campus who are more than willing to take advantage of these opportunities, yet they’re still being excluded.”

Hasty Pudding is known for bawdy comedic revues that feature men in drag playing female characters, a longstanding tradition in the group, which



In this Jan. 27, 2011 file photo, actress Julianne Moore, center, named Harvard University’s Hasty Pudding Theatricals woman of the year, dances in a kickline with male cast members dressed as women, on the steps of the New College Theatre in Cambridge, Mass.

says it was formed in 1795.

But more recently, women have sought acting roles in

the student-written parodies, which are shown in Massachusetts, New York and Ber-

muda and have helped launch careers for former students ranging from Jack Lemmon

to Broadway composer Larry O’Keefe.

Kantor is among about 20 women who auditioned for this year’s show as a form of protest, an idea started by two women in 2015. Each year, the women have promptly been cut.

Women can instead take behind-the-scenes jobs, including writing the shows or working on the technical crew, the group says on its website.

Students on Hasty Pudding’s executive board, which is led by a woman and includes several female members, declined to comment. Overall, about half the 50 students involved with the group are women.

The troupe has been criticized for its all-male cast before, including in a 2016 petition from dozens of former members.

Its shows take cues from the Shakespearean era, when men played all roles. Harvard itself admitted only male undergraduates until a partial merger with Radcliffe College in 1977.

The Man and Woman of the Year awards precede the kick-off of the annual revue, which includes more than 30 perfor-

mances in February and March.

Kunis, whose credits include “That ‘70s Show” and “Black Swan,” has spoken out sharply against sexism in entertainment, including in a 2016 essay. She did not respond to a request for comment.

Some students and alumni have also said this year’s Man of the Year, Paul Rudd, should stand up against the exclusion. A message seeking comment was sent to a representative for the actor.

Others recently named Woman of the Year by the group include Octavia Spencer and Amy Poehler, who cracked a biting joke about the group’s exclusion of women when she accepted the honor in 2015.

“You know it’s time for a change when the Augusta National Golf Club has lapped you in terms of being progressive,” Poehler said, referring to the Georgia club’s 2012 decision to admit women.

Some critics are also challenging the portrayal of women in the revues, which have featured characters with names like “Donna My Knees” and “Sheila Rowsya.”

## Friendship marred by man’s harsh treatment of his wife

**D**EAR ABBY: I have a good male friend whose company I have enjoyed very much. He’s outgoing and likes many of the same activities I do. Should I ever need anything, I know he would be there for me.

Unfortunately, this same person is very disrespectful to his wife. He’s severely critical of everything she does. I have seen him yell and make disparaging remarks to her, to the extent that I feel it borders on abusive. His wife is a warm, caring, selfless individual who deserves to be loved by someone who appreciates all that she is and does.

Because of the way he treats her, I no longer enjoy being around him. I’d like to remain friends with this couple, but I’m not sure how to. I am very sad about all of this. Please help me.

ANGUISHED IN ARIZONA

**DEAR ANGUISHED:** I don’t blame you for feeling sad about what you have witnessed. While you would like to continue the friendship, please recognize that unless some changes are made, it isn’t going to happen. You would be doing your friend (and his wife) a favor to tell him how bad his verbal abuse makes HIM look and how harmful it is to his wife. And while you’re at it, suggest that if they are hav-

ing problems -- which they obviously are—they try to work them out with a licensed marriage and family therapist.

**DEAR ABBY:** Recently my middle sister started dating my younger sister’s ex-boyfriend. My younger sister dated this guy in college (10 years ago) and really cared for him. It ended when she found out he had cheated on her. Younger sister is now married and has a small child.

Middle sister started dating this ex a few months ago and really likes him. He has been over to see my parents, and they are supportive of the relationship. The problem is, no one wants to tell my younger sister for fear of her being mad.

I talk to her almost daily. I’m afraid that once she finds out, which is bound to happen, she will be more upset with me (and my parents) for hiding it from her than the fact that they’re dating. Should I tell her or is it not my place?

I don’t want to feel like I am lying or hiding anything anymore, but I also feel like my middle sister should admit it, which she said she isn’t ready to do because she doesn’t want to say anything unless this turns into something serious. What should I do?

CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE

**DEAR ABBY**  
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

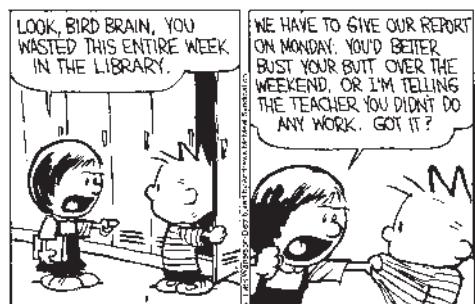


**DEAR CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE:** From where I sit, you have sized the situation up accurately. Your younger sister will be mortified when she realizes that everyone knew her sister has been dating the ex for months and it was kept from her. Talk to your middle sister. Insist that the sneaking around stop, because it could cause a permanent breach in the family.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



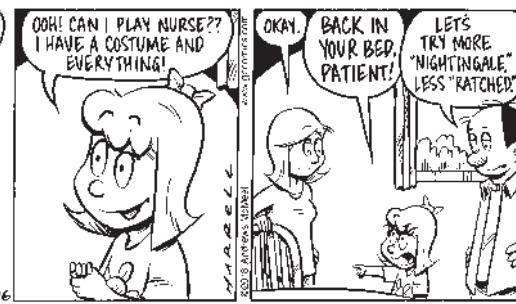
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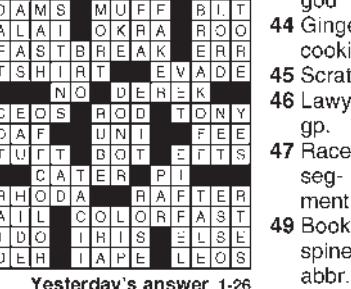


## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37	"Don Giovanni"	2	Border on	25	Easy
1 Spigot	38	Composer	3	Engine noise	26	targets
4 Rosary component	39	Very long time	4	Yogi's little pal	27	Jack Horner's prize
8 Volcanic flow	40	Tease	5	Santa's helpers	28	Sleek, in car lingo
12 — Dhabi	41	Family girls	6	Census stat	29	Mercedes —
13 Gymnast Korbut	45	Niger neighbor	7	Sweetheart	30	Atlantic fish
14 Eastern bigwig	48	Flip	8	Tennis legend Ivan	32	Ballpark snacks
15 Triangular pastry	50	Help a hood	9	Clinton's veep	33	Music for nine
17 Russian denial	51	Feathery	10	Author Tan	35	Lanka lead-in
18 Flashing disco light	52	wrap	11	Compete	36	Evening party
19 Young fellow	53	Sitar music	12	Illustrations	38	Curly-tailed dog
21 Dawn goddess	54	gin fizz	13	Seasonal songs	39	January, to Juan
22 Relatives by marriage	55	Nile biter	14	Raggedy doll	42	Castro's land
26 Cellist Casals	DOWN		15	Makes lace	43	Love god
29 Anderson Cooper's channel	1		16	Location	44	Ginger cookie
30 Actor Stephen	Makes		17	Feeble	45	Scratch
31 Sediment	lace		18	Caterpillar	46	Lawyers' gp.
32 Glutton			19	RHODA RAFTER	47	Race segment
33 Tide variety			20	AIL COLOR FAST	48	Book-spine abbr.
34 Ornate vase			21	IDOL HIS ELSE		
35 Turf			22	UEH JAPE LEO'S		
36 Saturates			23			
			24			

Solution time: 25 mins.



CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sara Rue, 39; Ellen DeGeneres, 60; Eddie Van Halen, 63; Lucinda Williams, 65.

**Happy Birthday:** Good fortune will be a result of hard work and a little luck. Speak up and get things done. Take control of whatever situation you face and don't be afraid to ask questions or give orders. If you want something, do something about it. Don't get frustrated or angry when you should be getting busy. Your numbers are 4, 10, 22, 27, 36, 39, 45.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Joint ventures will turn emotional if money is involved. Think twice before you bank on someone else's ability to be successful. Trust and believe in what you are capable of and pursue what's in your best interest. Avoid emotional arguments. ☀️☀️

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Attend meetings, conferences or networking events. Don't promise more than you can deliver or brag about something you've done in the past. Listening to what others have to say will enable you to decipher who can help you the most. ☀️☀️

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Emotional matters will surface. Don't run and hide when you should be dealing with situations as they arise. Personal improvements look promising if you are willing to put in the time and effort. Spend less and do more. ☀️☀️

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Emotional energy will take over quickly if you socialize with people who tend to be excessive. Discipline will be required if you want to avoid getting into trouble with someone who cares about

you. Don't let anyone take advantage of you. ☀️☀️

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Channel your energy into your personal relationships and trying to make your life better. An image change will make you feel good. Socialize with people you find interesting and progressive, not those relying on stimulants to get them through each day. ☀️☀️

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Joint ventures will turn emotional if money is involved. Think twice before you bank on someone else's ability to be successful. Trust and believe in what you are capable of and pursue what's in your best interest. Avoid emotional arguments. ☀️☀️

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**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Emotional energy will take over quickly if you socialize with people who tend to be excessive. Discipline will be required if you want to avoid getting into trouble with someone who cares about

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put your heart and soul into your responsibilities and taking care of business. Getting along with those you need to deal with will make your job easier. Make an effort to fit exercise and proper diet into your everyday routine. ☀️☀️

## EUGENIA LAST

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**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Greater opportunities are heading your way. Expand your interests and skills, explore job opportunities and start the process of making the changes that will bring you greater joy. Speak from the heart. ☀️☀️



**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't waste time arguing. Look for ways to go after your goals without conflict. Keep your head down and your focus on what you are trying to achieve. Don't give in when you should be doing your own thing. ☺



**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll have the energy and wherewithal to turn something you want to pursue into something tangible. Share your ideas and formulate a plan that will help you as well as those you love. Initiate and participate. ☀️☀️



**Birthday Baby:** You are sensitive, caring and thoughtful. You are progressive and motivated.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	6	1	5					
	8			4				
9	7				1			
3		5	6	4				
5						8		
4	9	8				6		
4					5	7		
	6		2					
	9	1	4					

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	1	2	4	8	3	9	6	7
9	3	6	1	2	7	4	5	8
8	4	7	5	9	6	2	3	1
3	9	1	6	5	4	8	7	2
7	8	5	2	3	1	6	9	4
6	2	4	8	7	9	3	1	5
4	7	3	9	1	2	5	8	6
1	6	8	3	4	5	7	2	9
2	5	9	7	6	8	1	4	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

### BREAKING GROUND

N	C	N	C	H	U	R	C	T	R	A	E	G	T
E	O	O	B	L	U	E	P	R	I	N	T	S	N
M	M	I	N	S	S	P	E	E	C	H	A	T	I
S	M	T	T	S	M	P	S	N	R	V	I	P	G
S	E	A	R	A	T	I	Y	U	E	M	D	E	G
E	M	D	A	Y	R	R	L	D	R	W	O	C	I
N	N	O	N	C	S	N	A	U	E	D	F	S	N
I	R	U	K	T	H	O	P						

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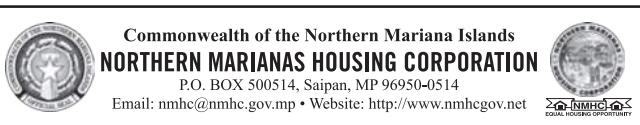
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- (5) Welders, cutters, solderers and brazers
- (30) Construction workers

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2018-003	1-Collector	PL 12-01 to PL 12-05 \$25,791.92 to \$31,350.24-per annum

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For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Acting Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to [officemanager@nmhcgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhcgov.net). NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS  
Corporate Director

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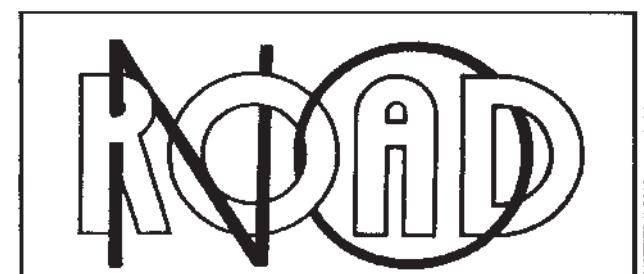
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# Celtics down Clippers to snap 4-game skid



**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—The Boston Celtics refused to panic, even as the Eastern Conference leaders were staring at a four-game losing streak.

One night after falling to the lowly Los Angeles Lakers, they returned to Staples Center to remind everyone why they're among the NBA's best at 35-14. The Celtics' defense hounded the Clippers all night, forcing 19 turnovers and holding them to 44.3 percent shooting in a 113-102 victory on Wednesday night.

"This is a hard league," Celtics coach Brad Stevens said. "You're going to have your ups and downs. We were really fortunate to win 16 games in a row earlier this year. We could have lost about 11 of them. Sometimes things go your way, sometimes they don't."

They were back to going the Celtics' way Wednesday night.

"They do a good job defending, but we got some good shots, some wide-open shots, and just missed," Clippers forward Blake Griffin said.

Griffin led all scorers with 23 points, but after the first quarter, the Celtics forced him to settle for the outside shot. Griffin was just 1 of 7 from 3-point range.

The Celtics countered with five players scoring in double-figures, led by Kyrie Irving's 20 points and Jayson Tatum's 18.

"Our guys, for the first time in a while, got a little disbanded by their ball movement and attack," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said. "They have so many athletes, they really like targeting some of our guys with foot speed."

Terry Rozier added 15 points off the bench for Boston, and Marcus Morris also had 15.

"It felt like we were getting a lot from a lot of people," Stevens said. "Offensively, this was one of our better games."



Boston Celtics guard Jaylen Brown, right, shoots as Los Angeles Clippers forward Wesley Johnson defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2018, in Los Angeles. The Celtics won, 113-102.

while Greg Monroe had 16 points and a season-high 17 rebounds to lead Phoenix, which never led and didn't get closer than 10 over the final three quarters. The Suns have lost two straight and five of six.

## Jazz 98, Pistons 95, OT

In Detroit, Joe Ingles made a tying layup in the final seconds of regulation, then added two straight 3-pointers in overtime to lift the Utah Jazz over the Detroit Pistons.

The Pistons lost their sixth straight by blowing a nine-point lead late in the fourth quarter. Detroit had a chance to tie at the end of overtime, but Tobias Harris missed from the left corner, and the rebound went out of bounds off the Pistons.

Andre Drummond had 30 points and 24 rebounds for Detroit, and he fueled a 10-0 run that put the Pistons ahead 88-79, but Utah closed strong in the fourth quarter.

## Raptors 108, Hawks 93

In Atlanta, Jonas Valanciunas had 16 points and 13 rebounds, and the New Orleans Pelicans defeated the Charlotte Hornets for their sixth win in the last seven games.

Cousins had 16 points and 13 rebounds for the Pelicans.

Dwight Howard had 22

points and 16 rebounds in his

1,000th career game to lead

the Hornets, who fell to 2-2 on

the five-game homestand.

Holiday made a pair of driving layups late in the fourth quarter to help spark the Pelicans.

## Pacers 116, Suns 101

In Indianapolis, Thaddeus Young scored 22 points, Victor Oladipo had 21 points and nine assists and the Indiana Pacers pulled away from the Phoenix Suns.

The Pacers have won five of six, blowing out the Suns for the second time in 10 days.

Josh Jackson had 20 points,

43 percent shooting, including 2 of 18 from outside the arc, and 17 turnovers.

## Pelicans 101, Hornets 96

In Charlotte, Jrue Holiday and Anthony Davis each scored 19 points, DeMarcus Cousins

"That was his life," Jones said. It was a life he learned to embrace, even though he didn't play in the bright lights of New York City.

"I don't mind signing an autograph or taking a picture," Jones said. "To be honest with you, if they weren't asking, I'd be more worried."

The first two things he signed after his election to the Hall: a pair of baseballs for his mother and father.

He personalized each with their nicknames—"Blondie" for his mom, "Hawk" for his dad—but the message was the same.

"We did it," he wrote. "HOF '18."

**ATLANTA** (AP)—Chipper Jones always looked up to the Mick.

Now, they're members of the same exclusive club.

Jones was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame on Wednesday, getting in on his first try with one of the highest voting percentages ever. The longtime Atlanta Braves third baseman was picked on 97.2 percent of the ballots—yep, even more than his idol, Mickey Mantle.

"There are only a few days that change your life forever," Jones said during an evening news conference at SunTrust Park, arranged before the voting totals were even an-

nounced since his selection was a foregone conclusion. "Today was another one of those instances where my life will never be same."

He headed the latest list of inductees, joined by Vladimir Guerrero (92.9 percent), Jim Thome (89.9) and Trevor Hoffman (79.9). Edgar Martinez (70.4) just missed out on the 75 percent threshold in his next-to-last year on the ballot.

Growing up, Jones heard early and often about the player he should try to emulate. His father worshipped Mantle,

"It was one of the only times



where I found myself, the night before, practicing how I was going to meet somebody in the mirror," Jones recalled.

When the moment came, he couldn't get any of the words he had practiced to come out of his mouth.

"That's how high a pedestal this guy was on," Jones said, chuckling at the memory.

Composing himself, Jones finally began a conversation.

He wondered how Mantle dealt with the adulation, always carrying himself with a

mythical aura that would still drive some fans to tears long after he was done playing.

"Mickey, does this ever get old?" Jones asked. "How do you keep this in perspective?"

Mantle told the young ballplayer of a recurring dream.

"I'm standing at the pearly gates. God walks up, and apparently I've got this worried look on my face. He says, 'Mickey, I'm gonna let you in. But can you sign these dozen baseballs?'"

Jones roared with laughter.

So did everyone else in the room.

# At 36, Federer oldest Aussie Open semifinalist



**MELBOURNE**  
(AP)—Roger Federer got cranky at the chair umpire for a technology flaw in his Australian Open quarterfinal match, using the rare emotional outburst as motivation.

It helped. The 36-year-old Federer, now the oldest semifinalist in Melbourne in 41 years, beat long-time rival Tomas Berdych 7-6 (1), 6-3, 6-4 Wednesday and will next face a challenge from the next generation.

That will be against 21-year-old Hyeon Chung, the first South Korean to reach a Grand Slam semifinal and the youngest to reach the last four at a major since 2010.

Federer's victory extended his winning streak to 14 in Australian Open quarterfinals and to nine in a personal rivalry with Berdych that dates back to 2004. The 19-time major champion leads that head-to-head contest 20-6, including all five meetings at Melbourne Park.

Federer had to overcome a shaky start, dropping his opening service game and uncharacteristically questioning chair umpire Fergus Murphy because of a technological fault. With Berdych serving for the first set in the ninth game, Federer had challenged a line call.

After a lengthy delay, Murphy called the control room and confirmed the replay graphic couldn't be displayed on the stadium screen, and also that the original decision stood. When he added that Federer had no challenges remaining for the set, Federer approached the chair and the crowd cheers intensified.

"Yeah, but you can't steal my challenge," Federer told Murphy. "Do you feel comfortable



with this? You're OK with it?"

Seven points later, he eventually broke Berdych to get back on serve, and then won the tiebreaker. The match was as good as over.

"I had to get a bit lucky. A bit angry. A bit frustrated maybe at the umpire," Federer said. "Anyway, glad to get out of that first set. It was key to the match."

Federer later said he just wanted an explanation from

the chair, and agreed that blowing off steam helped his cause.

"I was under pressure. It was definitely very close, the turning point," he said. "I played a great breaker. But coming back from 5-2 in the first set, it was clearly big tonight."

Chung beat 97th-ranked Tennys Sandgren 6-4, 7-6 (5), 6-3 in the afternoon match.

He hadn't let up in upset wins over No. 4 Alexander

Zverev or six-time Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic, but he let his guard down in the last game against Sandgren and needed six match points to finish it off.

"In last game, I think at 40-love ... if I win one more point, I make history in Korea. I have to think about the ceremony, something," Chung said, explaining how he let his celebrations get slightly ahead of the re-

sult. "After deuce, break point. I was like, 'No, nothing to do with ceremony. But just keep playing—keep focused.'"

In an on-court interview, he introduced the audience to his parents and his coach, and took the microphone to speak in Korean to millions of new tennis fans back home.

"I think all the people is watching Australian Open now," he said.

rently sits at number 58 on the rankings board.

Chung's impressive run has seen him beat a seeded opponent in three out of his five games with his most notable victory coming against six time Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic, whom he dispatched comfortably in straight sets.

Prior to the Slam getting underway, Chung was listed at the ludicrous odds of \$251 to take home the crown, but he has now shortened all the way into \$6.50.

**AP**  
Switzerland's Roger Federer makes a forehand return to Tomas Berdych during their match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2018.

The 58th-ranked Chung is the lowest-ranked man to reach the Australian Open semifinals since Marat Safin in 2004.

With Chung already through, and Kyle Edmund playing No. 6 Marin Cilic in the other half of the draw, it's the first time since 1999 that multiple unseeded players have reached the Australian Open semifinals.

Federer has been keeping an eye on Chung's progress.

"To beat Novak on this court is particularly difficult. ... He's incredibly impressive in his movement, reminds me obviously a lot of Novak," Federer said. "He's clearly got nothing to lose. I will tell myself the same and we'll see what happens."

The women's semifinals were determined earlier Wednesday, when top-ranked Simona Halep recovered from an early break to win nine straight games in a 6-3, 6-2 win over No. 6 Karolina Pliskova, and 2016 Australian Open champion Angelique Kerber routed U.S. Open finalist Madison Keys 6-1, 6-2. In the other semifinal match, No. 2 Caroline Wozniacki will play 22-year-old Elise Mertens.

Halep, a two-time French Open finalist, has had a tough road—having to save match points in a third-round win over Lauren Davis that finished 15-13 in the third—to reach the semifinals at Melbourne Park for the first time.

Kerber, the only major champion still in contention, is riding a 14-match winning streak.

**MELBOURNE**—Each year during the Australian Open, one player comes out of the wilderness to capture the imagination of the nation.

Last year it was German Mischa Zverev, then ranked number 50 in the world, who advanced to the quarterfinals before running into the Swiss Master Roger Federer.

In 2015, it was hometown favourite Nick Kyrgios who made it all the way to the same stage before he fell at the hands of Federer.

The two biggest and most

captivating Australian Open runs however were in 2006 and 2008.

Frenchman Jo-Wilfred Tsonga started the 2008 season as the 38th ranked man on tour, but toppled three top 10 seeds on his way to the final.

Cypriot Marcus Baghdatis had the entire nation eating out of the palm of his hand when he burst onto the scene way back in 2006.

His miracle run all the way to the final saw him become

a local hero at Melbourne Park, a legend status that still exists to this day.

This year's Open is no different.

Hyeon Chung has quickly become an icon during his unprecedented run that sees him become the lowest ranked player to go this deep into an Australian Open since Marat Safin in 2004.

Safin marched into the Final despite being number 86 in the rankings; Chung cur-

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# Super Bowl sparks rivalry for Boston, Philly



Philadelphia Eagles' Nick Foles answers a reporter's question during an NFL football news conference, Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2018, in Philadelphia. The Eagles face the New England Patriots in Super Bowl 52 on Sunday, Feb. 4, in Minneapolis.

**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—The war has begun in Philadelphia and Boston, where the Super Bowl-bound rivals are lightheartedly refusing to sell items from each other's cities in a sort of "cheesesteak ban heard 'round the world."

In Boston, one park has banned the sale of cheese steaks, soft pretzels and the wearing of any Philadelphia sports paraphernalia.

Michael Nichols, director of the Esplanade along the Charles River, said Wednesday that also forbidden are cracked copper bells, "Philadelphia" brand cream cheese, Will Smith, Sylvester Stallone

and Crisco.

"We're taking a firm stance on this, but I can't say we'll exactly be out in the park enforcing it," he said.

In Philadelphia, Dottie's Donuts is refusing to make its Boston cream confection, even though it is a best-seller. Instead, the vegan shop is selling something called "The Creamed Boston," covered in Eagles green.

"We're banning all New England-themed doughnuts," said Jeff Poleon, owner of Dottie's. "You're not going to see a clam chowder doughnut here, we have no Bos-

ton baked bean doughnuts. I know Gronk has a Monster energy drink. We're not allowed to sell or drink any of those until the Eagles win the Super Bowl next weekend."

They've also created a long john-style doughnut called "The Greased Pole." On the morning of Sunday's NFC championship game, workers in Philadelphia who jokingly called themselves the "Crisco Cops" greased light poles to try to prevent fans from climbing up them after the game. It didn't stop some fans after the Eagles won, though.

LII SUPER BOWL

## Bodybuilders wanted for March event

The Northern Marianas Bodybuilding & Physique Federation is inviting all bodybuilders and fitness enthusiasts to sign up for their event in March.

NMBPF president John Davis, who earned his international judge license last year, said they would be holding the 4th Marianas Muscle on March 24 at 2pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center in Susupe.

The entry fee is \$10 for NMBPF members, while \$15 for non-members. The admission ticket is also \$10. The

competition will feature men's and women's bodybuilding and physique and will be divided into the junior (under 18), senior (19 to 40 years old), and masters (over 41) categories. The women's junior division will have model physique. Entry forms and fees must be submitted and paid on or before March 17.

Meanwhile, Davis, who is also the president of the CNMI Weightlifting Federation, is reminding interested weightlifters to join the CNMI Weightlifting's Micronesian Games

qualifying event on Feb. 17 at the Latte Built 24-Hour Fitness and Nutrition Center.

The 2018 Micro Games, the ninth edition to be hosted by Yap State for the first time, is set from July 15 to 28 at the 2,000-seater Yap Sports Complex in Colonia.

The one-day qualifier is open to athletes 13 years old and up. No awards or medals will be given away as only slots for the CNMI national weightlifting team will be up for grabs.

The qualifying tournament

will start with the weigh-ins at 10am, while the actual competition in each weight category begins after 30 minutes.

Members of Latte Built Gym, owned by fitness instructor Derek Cutting, are free to join while non-members will be charged a \$1 fee just to compete. Registration forms are available at Latte Built or can be obtained by getting in touch with any CNMI Weightlifting board member.

For more information on both events, email Davis at johndavisjr@gmail.com. (*Jon Perez*)

## EXPECT

*From Page 32*

climb the cage anytime. "I'm feeling real good. Mentally, I feel like a 19-year-old where you don't need to warm up and just go at it."

He said he's also glad to finally make it to the UFC even though he's already 28 years old.

"I'm still learning, now that I'm in the UFC and after all

my previous fights. There's a reason for everything. It just happened that I got signed at 28 years old. I'm glad that it finally happened and I just look at it in different ways," added Camacho.

Dober, meanwhile, is a known a kickboxer and submission fighter as half of his 18 wins were by way of submission. He also had five wins by decision and four by

KO against eight losses. The Omaha, Nebraska-born fighter has also not fought since beating Joshua Burkman by KO in UFC 214: Cornier vs Jones 2 on July 29, 2017.

Dober, in a separate interview by James Lynch on FISMMA, said that it took a while for the UFC to find him an opponent and he thinks Camacho is a right fit for him.

"Camacho has two Fight of

the Night, so he could really swing. The UFC is looking to add some spectacle on the card with our fight. He is known for his strengths, but what's really going to come out is the improvements I've made in the last couple of years and Team Elevation in Denver, Colorado. I'm not the same fighter in the last couple of years and I think it will show in this one," Dober said.

the Revolutionary War in 1775. That was back when the two cities were on the same side.

Meanwhile, Philadelphia's mayor says he won't jinx the Eagles ahead of their Super Bowl appearance by placing the team's jersey on the statue

of William Penn atop City Hall.

Democratic Mayor Jim Kenney said Tuesday he wants the city's football team to win the big game. But his spokesman tells WCAU-TV he didn't want to risk putting the jersey on the statue.

## Amendola making playoffs his playground for Patriots

**FOXBOROUGH, Mass.** (AP)—Danny Amendola is Bill Belichick's kind of player.

After battling injuries throughout 2016, the 5-foot-11, 180-pound receiver has had some of the best moments of his five-year Patriots' tenure during their past two playoff runs.

It started last year with his touchdown catch and game-tying 2-point conversion during New England's comeback win over Atlanta in the Super Bowl.

Amendola's been just as dependable this postseason. He caught 11 passes for a playoff career-high 112 yards in New England's divisional-round win over Tennessee.

He then hauled in two touchdown catches, including the winner, in the Patriots' AFC championship game win over Jacksonville. He enters his third Super Bowl as New England's leader in receptions, yards and touchdowns this postseason.

"When you look up 'good football player' in the dictionary his picture is right there beside it," Belichick said of the 32-year-old. "It doesn't matter what it is. Fielding punts, third down, big play, red area, onside kick recov-

ery—whatever we need him to do."

Often Tom Brady's third option in the passing game behind Rob Gronkowski and Julian Edelman, Amendola reworked his contract this past offseason just to stay in New England.

"I have a lot of great memories here," he said. "Any negative thing or anything that's tried to hinder me, I try to ignore and focus on the positive things that have been going on in this building for the last five years for me."

Belichick credits Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels, then the St. Louis Rams offensive coordinator when Amendola was there in 2011, with recognizing his potential.

Amendola was originally signed by Dallas as undrafted free agent out of Texas Tech in 2008. Following stints on the practice squads for the Cowboys and Philadelphia Eagles, he was in his third season with the Rams when he caught McDaniels' eye.

"You saw a good player in St. Louis, but you didn't see all the things behind the scenes that you kind of can see when you actually have the player on your team," Belichick said.

## FUTSAL

*From Page 32*

the first place and runner-up trophies.

"The tournament aims to provide players opportuni-

ties to enjoy competing in a co-ed setting, continue to spark interest in the game, and allow them to get a different feel of the match as it is played in an indoor pitch," SSS' Angie Ito said.

**3**  
*From Page 32*

previous personal best time (2:39.23) and helped him beat four other swimmers entered in his age group. The SSC member touched the wall ahead of Tsunami Saipan's Isaiah Alekseenko (2:35.41), Alex Kim (3:28.51), Kean Pajarillaga (3:31.23), and Miguel Batolata (3:44.33).

Completing the short list of swimmers who made CNMI age group records last Saturday was Tsunami Saipan's Nanaka Watanabe.

The 12-year-old swimmer earned a record in the last individual event of the meet—the

50m breaststroke. She completed the sprint race in 38.85 seconds to eclipse the 39.06 seconds that former Tsunami Saipan swimmer Angel Tan tallied on April 15, 2011.

Six other Tsunami Saipan swimmers raced in the 11 to 12 age group with Asaka Litulmar (39.48 seconds) coming in at second and was followed by Ashley Dangol (43.58), Michelle Chen (54.15), Ashley Jeon (54.68), Julia Jinang (1:02.15), and Sophia Heras (1:12.21).

Watanabe, Suzuki, and Tenorio's records are waiting for certification from the Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation.

# Fiesta, Kanoa triumph anew

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

 Last year's finalists Kanoa Resort and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan strengthened their hold to the Top 2 spots in the team standings after beating separate opponents in the 2017 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Fiesta played in the curtain-raiser last weekend and cruised past POI Aviation, 69-55, while defending champion Kanoa topped *Saipan Tribune* in the nightcap, 67-58. Shirley's Coffee Shop joined Fiesta and Kanoa in the winners' circle after prevailing over Lower Base in the second match, 75-69. Fiesta is undefeated in seven games to remain in first place, while Kanoa is at close second with its 6-1 record and was followed by *Saipan Tribune* (3-4), POI (3-4), Shirley's (2-5), and Lower Base (0-7).

Elmer Esdrelon and Fradel Sedillo helped Fiesta extend its winning streak as they combined for nearly half of their squad's total output.

Esdrelon scored a game-high 24 points, while Sedillo chipped in 8. Fiesta's team captain heated up early, dropping 18 in the first 20 minutes of play and knocking in four



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Kanoa Resort's Sonny Encarnacion, left, muscles his way into the defense of *Saipan Tribune*'s Ferdie De La Torre during the first half of their game in the 2017 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

triples to lift the pacesetter to a double-digit advantage after the first half, 39-26. Sedillo then picked up where Esdrelon left off, firing 12 in the

second half to complete Fiesta's domination of POI.

In the second game, Shirley's also leaned on two of its players to beat Lower Base.

Duncan Laxa and John Jugos teamed up for Shirley's with the former registering 28 points and the latter contributing 23.

Laxa delivered 11 straight points for Shirley's in the first half and finished that period with 15 to keep Lower Base within striking distance, as the latter led by only four at the break, 31-35. Lower Base took the driver's seat in the first half behind the combined 26 points of Elie Kenty and Ariel Jinang. Jinang's guns were still blazing in the second half, but Kenty went cold and was held to two field goals, while Laxa found an ally in Jugos to put Shirley's on top and steal the win.

In the third game, Douglas Schmidt anchored Kanoa's offense as expected after posting 23 points. He buried crucial triples in the second half and drew enough help from his teammates to foil *Saipan Tribune*'s repeated comeback bids.

## First Game

**Fiesta Resort 69** — Esdrelon 24, Sedillo 18, Nonato 8, Arreza 6, Quizon 6, Villamena 4, Demafelix 3.

**POI Aviation 55** — Santos 15, Nakashima 14, Deleon Guerrero 8, Kaipat 6, Arago 4, Kim 2, Mendiola 2.

**Scoring by halves:** 39-26, 69-55.

## Second Game

**Shirley's 75** — Laxa 28, Jugos 23, Guiab 8, Alonzo 8, Palma 5, Drilon 2.

**Lower Base 69** — Jinang 27, Kenty 17, W. Benavente 9, J. Benavente 3, Alegre 2, Echavez 2.

**Scoring by halves:** 31-35, 75-69.

## Third Game

**Kanoa Resort 67** — Schmidt 23, Encarnacion 12, Pablo 11, Sison 7, Bustillo 6, Francisco 4, Lumauag 2.

**Saipan Tribune 58** — Galarion 25, De La Torre 13, Calayag 7, Calib 6, M. Ong 4, Rabago 2.

**Scoring by halves:** 32-24, 67-58.

## TRAC moves event, gives way to walkathon tomorrow

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



The Triathlon Association of the CNMI pushed back its 3rd

Aquathlon and 10K Run from Saturday to Sunday to give way to another event organized by the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa's Health Ministry.

The pre-Tagaman event was originally set for tomorrow at 6am at the Kilili Beach Park, but the schedule would clash with the diocese's 5-kilometer Walkathon.

The walkathon will start from the parking lot of Kristo Rai Parish to Quartermaster Road and back. Registration opens at 6am, while participants begin their walk at 7am. A limited number of event t-shirts will be given away for free on a first come, first serve basis.

TRAC president Ricky Castro said they decided to move their race to Sunday to avoid any possible mishap along the Beach Road Pathway since the course for their event will start at Kilili Beach Park.

Participants in the aquathlon will take a 2.5K run from Kilili Beach to Monika's Furniture near Quartermaster Road and back. They will

## NMC Foundation Open Golf Tournament set for March 3

In its effort to advance post secondary education in the CNMI, the Northern Marianas College Foundation has announced that its signature event, the 15th Annual NMC Foundation Open Golf Tournament, will be held on March 3 on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

The NMC Foundation is committed to elevating higher education opportunities for CNMI students. All

proceeds from the tournament will be used to support NMC's mission.

"Throughout the years, the NMC Foundation Open has built a loyal following of golfers and supporters who are dedicated to helping the College," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "We are excited to be announcing impressive prizes donated by our sponsors in the next few days."



CONTRIBUTED PGOTO

Participants in last year's NMC Foundation Open Golf Tournament take time to pose for a photo. This year's competition will take place on March 3 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's west course.

The entrance fee for the tournament is \$100 per player.

There will be six separate flight categories: Championship, A, B, C, Seniors, and Ladies. First place winners in the men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Ladies Flights will each receive \$500 cash, while \$300 and \$200 will go to the second and third place finishers, respectively. Hole-in-one prizes include vehicles from Atkins Kroll Saipan and Joeten Motors and cash prizes worth thousands of dollars from Pacifica Insurance and Marianas Insurance Company. The tournament will also feature many other items as raffle prizes like smart phones, hotel stays, meal gift certificates, and much more.

The NMC Foundation is also asking companies, organizations, and individuals interested in sponsorship opportunities to call 237-6833. Those interested in playing in the tournament can pick up registration forms at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort and at the NMC Cashier's Office, where payments for the registration fee can be made as well. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Tyce Mister celebrates his finish in last year's Triathlon Association of the CNMI-organized race at PauPau Beach. TRAC will hold its first event for 2018 this Sunday.

Celtics down  
Clippers to snap  
4-game skid

PAGE 28



# Saipan Tribune Sports



At 36, Federer  
oldest Aussie  
Open semifinalist

PAGE 29

32 FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2018

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Three swimmers had record-breaking performances in the Tsunami Saipan Mid Season Meet held last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Juhn Tenorio was the first to establish a CNMI age group mark when he fin-

ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Juhn Tenorio does the breaststroke part of the 200m individual medley race in the Tsunami Saipan Mid Season Meet held last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

ished the 50m backstroke race in the 13 to 14 division in 31.01 seconds. The 13-year-old swimmer surpassed the Commonwealth age group mark (31.31 seconds), which he incidentally registered on Oct. 7, 2017. Tenorio's time in last weekend's sprint event was also the fastest among the 17 swimmers that completed the one-lap race.

Tsunami Saipan's Aika Watanabe had the second best time at 36.49 seconds in the 50m backstroke. Other swimmers who wrapped up the race in less than a minute were Watanabe's teammates Shoko Litulumar (44.11 seconds), Maria Batallones (44.57),

**Tsunami**  
SAIPAN

Ayumi Obligacion (43.46), Saipan Swim Club's Carol Lynn Calobong-Pierce (53.65), and Dolphin Club Saipan's Suzy Kindel (58.51), Ivan Ilmova (58.59), and Buboy Aguilar (59.16).

In the 200m individual medley, SSC's Jinnosuke Suzuki led the finishers in the 11 to 12 age group en route to setting a new record in the division. He clocked in at 2:33.62 to break the 2:34.15 that his brother Lennosuke posted on March 19, 2016.

Jinnosuke's record mark was also nearly six seconds better than his

See 3 on Page 30

## Expect fireworks in Camacho vs Dober

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

**F**ireworks are expected when Frank "The Crank" Camacho and Drew Dober clash in one of the four main card bouts in UFC ON FOX 27: Jacare vs Brunson 2 set for Saturday (Sunday, Saipan time) at the Spectrum Center in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Camacho is a known brawler and likes taking his fights standing up, as he won 15 of his 21 victories by knockout—

Australian Damien Brown in UFC Fight Night 121: Werдум VS Tybura in November last year.

Camacho, before making his debut on the UFC stage and meeting Brown, won four of his six fights by KO in various mixed martial arts events in the Marianas, the last a TKO victory (punches) against South Korean Hyun Joo Kim in Rites of Passage 20: Conquer. His boxing skills were again in full view against Brown at the Qudos Bank Arena in Sydney, Australia. Judge Kevin Manderson saw the fight at 29-28 for Brown,

while Chris Aliendi scored it 29-28 for Camacho. The pride of the Marianas eventually won the hotly



30-27.

contested bout after judge Evan Field called the fight in Camacho's favor,

Camacho, in an interview with MMA Junkie Radio, said he's always been ready to

See EXPECT on Page 30

## Futsal tournament draws 14 teams

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Saipan Soccer School's 2018 Youth Futsal Tournament will kick off this Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex and will feature 14 teams spread into three divisions.

In the co-ed U12 age group, the participating squads are Betde, Tinsel Toes, Kanoa Ali'i, and CTSI Petmalu. The co-ed U15 division also has four teams in Marianas United Betde United, CNMI United, and Fake Madrid, while six squads are entered in the co-ed U18: Islanders FC, Bruv, Splex City, ABCDE FC, La Fabrica, and CTSI Petmalu.

All the 14 teams will play in the opening day this weekend with Betde and CTSI Petmalu colliding in the first game in the co-ed U12 at 2pm. In the second match at 3pm, it will be Tinsel Toes versus Kanoa Ali'i. For the co-ed U15, the pairings are Marianas United against Fake Madrid at 4pm and Betde United opposite CNMI United at 5pm. In the co-ed U18 age group, the triple-header will start at 6pm with Islanders FC challenging CTSI Petmalu at 6pm. In the 7pm tiff, it will be Bruv against La Fabrica, while Su-

plex City and ABCDE FC will close out the opening day with their game at 8pm.

Matches in the futsal tournament will be played every Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday and elimination and playoffs format will be announced later.

The tournament will be

SSS' first for the year and individual and team awards await the participants at the conclusion of the competition. Organizers will be giving away Golden Boot and Golden Glove awards (male and female) in each age group and Fair Play (teams) besides

See FUTSAL on Page 30



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Futsal action resumes at the TSL Sports Complex with the staging of Saipan Soccer School's 2018 Youth Futsal Tournament, starting this Sunday.



The tale of the tape shows the advantages of Frank "The Crank" Camacho, right, and Drew Dober against each other.